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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH: DECEMBER, 1998

Most of December continued the trend of remarkably mild and dry weather, which has prevailed across the Niagara Frontier since summer. The month began in the midst of a record warm spell and remained unusually mild through Dec. 21. Winter finally arrived on Dec. 22, ending a stretch of 29 consecutive days with above average temperatures. No measurable snow fell until Dec. 17, the latest ever. But winter came with a vengeance during the last week with two major lake-effect snowstorms over portions of the Buffalo metropolitan area.

The month as a whole was very mild and very dry. The average temperature of 35.3° F. was over six degrees above normal which made this the third warmest December in the 55 years of record-keeping. The first seven days all reached at least the 50's, with records of 69 degrees on Dec. 6 and 7. The first 21 days averaged 11 degrees above normal. But conditions changed drastically on Dec. 22 and the final ten days averaged four degrees below normal. The eight-degree reading on Dec. 30 was the coldest temperature in almost two years in Buffalo.

Precipitation totalled only 1.54 inches, less than half the usual for December, and the driest in 55 years. This was the fifth consecutive month with well below normal precipitation. Only about half the normal amount has been recorded since July.

Snowfall varied widely across the metropolitan area due to two lake-effect storms. The first storm on Christmas Day dropped four to eight inches on the southern half of the city and eastern suburbs with the 7.1 inches establishing a record as the snowiest Christmas Day ever. The second storm was more intense and focused on the south-towns with over two feet falling in Orchard Park, Hamburg, and East Aurora, while nothing fell from the city north. The official monthly snow total of 11.6 inches was about half the usual, but the season total of 11.8 inches was only about a third of the normal amount through December.

Sunshine totalled 34 percent of the possible, a bit above average for what is normally the cloudiest month of the year. Lake Erie held at record warmth most of December before sliding to 40 degrees on the 31st. Only five other times has January begun with a lake temperature of 40 degrees or higher (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. on the World Wide Web).



In the B.O.S. study area the last remnants of the unprecedented Franklin's Gull invasion were one or two birds frequenting the Niagara River at the Whirlpool on December 13. Several observers, reporting to ONTARIO BIRDS on the Internet, indicated that a maximum of about 278 individuals was tallied for Ontario. The same sources noted that over 400 individuals were found in Ohio, up to 477 individuals were observed in one place in Indiana, some were seen in Illinois, and 500+ (with a possibility of nearly 800) were indicated by early reports in Michigan.

As to be expected, gull watching on the Niagara River was exciting during December, although somewhat less so than during the last half of November. Thirteen species were noted, only the Laughing Gull and the Sabine's Gull missing from the list that appeared in this column for November. One or two possible "Nelson's Gulls", the hybrid of a Herring Gull and a Glaucous Gull, were carefully observed at the Adam Beck power plant on December 13 and 26. Local observers need to be aware of a fairly "new kid on the block" for North America, the Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*), two or three of which have frequented the Atlantic Coast this winter from New Jersey south to Chesapeake Bay. The first New York State record was established as this column was being written! This Asiatic bird is pictured and described well in the book *Seabirds, An Identification Guide* by Peter Harrison, Houghton Mifflin, 1993. One is led to wonder what mechanisms are at work that are resulting in major range expansions for many species of gulls, certainly one of the most successful bird families in the modern world.

Usually found plying the seas of the North Atlantic, an immature Northern Gannet observed on Lake Ontario off the Town of Porter in Niagara County on Dec. 27 was probably one of several that were known to be in the Hamilton-Burlington, Ontario region and at Rochester. This seabird is a very rare visitant to our region, there being only nine previous records since 1981, all from Lakes Erie and Ontario and the Niagara River; six of the nine records are for the month of December. Some of our field observers believe that more frequent and concentrated effort at the right time of the year would produce more B.O.S. study area records. Another species usually associated with the high seas of the world is the Parasitic Jaeger; the individual noted in late November remained at Dunkirk Harbor until December 4.

Among the birds usually associated with water habitats, the Greater White-fronted Goose and Sandhill Crane reports this month are of special interest. Occurrences of both these species are increasing in the Northeast, not only during those times of the year when they are most expected, but also during the winter. The writer has been amazed at the number of reports on the Internet from throughout the Northeast and elsewhere during this current season. On the minus side has been the complete absence of Purple Sandpipers from the Niagara Frontier region this winter season. Perhaps ALL of the eastern Great Lakes individuals were concentrated this year at Presqu'ile Provincial Park on the northeastern shore of Lake Ontario, where an unprecedented concentration of 56-57 was reached during the early part of the season.

December is usually not the month when most field observers get excited about warblers and vireos in the north country. But the long, unusually mild fall season resulted in those groups, and many other half-hardy species, remaining far north well into the third week of the month. The frequency and number of warbler species reported in the Northeast on the Internet during December was astounding. Palm Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Wilson's Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat were the most frequently mentioned. The B.O.S. contribution to this trend included the first known winter Prairie Warbler record for the region and one of only a very few winter Pine Warblers. Yellow-rumped Warblers were more common than usual until the snow and cold began on December 22. These records, combined with the November White-eyed Vireo and Common Yellowthroat previously reported, make for an unusual warbler and vireo winter this far north, to say the least. Some other small birds, like the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Fox Sparrow, remained much later than usual. The kinglet might be the best example of a small, delicate bird being able to survive our more mild recent winters, since there have been records almost every year. Unexpected but not surprising were reports of



two very late American Woodcocks during the month, one on Grand Island and the other in suburban Fort Erie, Ont. The demise of the latter will be described in the January column.

A few other characteristics of December birds and birding in the B.O.S. area included an unusually large population of American Robins throughout the region, especially prominent along the south shore of Lake Ontario where sometimes hundreds were reported in a single day as they moved from favorite feeding areas to favorite night roosting sites. Snowy Owls joined the winter finches in being absent for the most part, although a very few owls were noted in areas adjacent to our region. The other owl species usually associated with the winter season seemed on the down side compared with most winters, although 10 Long-eared Owls were noted in one of the B.O.S. Christmas Count territories in Ontario, and up to eight Short-eared Owls were reported in the Town of Sheldon on the Beaver Meadow Refuge Christmas Count on December 26.

Richard C. Rosche

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	27	2	Porter Twp.	Morgante et al
Pied-billed Grebe	25	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	R&D Rosche
"	27	2	Buckhorn Island S.P.	Yoerg
Horned Grebe	12	1	Niagara Falls	Klick
Red-necked Grebe	13	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
*Northern Gannet	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
D.-crested Cormorant	6	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Morgante
Gr. Wh.-front. Goose	23	1	Tifft N.P.	Bogacki
Snow Goose	20	5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kehlenbeck
Mute Swan	13	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	15	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	2	Olcott	Chilton
Tundra Swan	2;15	11;45	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Sommerville
"	15	4	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	24	6	Eden Valley	Andrle
"	28	5	Oakfield Twp.	Kehlenbeck
Gadwall	5	70	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	15	2	Java Lake	R&D Rosche



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
American Black Duck	5	126	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Mallard	5	351	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Northern Shoveler	5	28	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Northern Pintail	5	37	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Green-winged Teal	10	3	Wethersfield Springs	R&D Rosche
Ring-necked Duck	5	20	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	9	1	Tifft N.P.	Chilton
"	15	<u>550</u>	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Lesser Scaup	10	250	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Surf Scoter	2;13;25	1;1;1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg; Klick; R&D Rosche
"	6	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Morgante
Black Scoter	25	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	R&D Rosche
Oldsquaw	2	200	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton
"	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Common Goldeneye	10	200	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Hooded Merganser	15	50	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Common Merganser	5	44	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	3,15	35,20	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	3	160	Busti Twp.	Walker
"	5	183	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	28	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	28	1	Olcott	Chilton
Bald Eagle	5	1	Lewiston Twp.	S&T O'Donnell
"	14,20,31	1,2,1	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby
"	25	2	Grand Island	R&D Rosche
Northern Harrier	15	8	Shelby Twp.	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Goshawk	<u>27</u>	1	Wethersfield Springs	R. Rosche et al
Red-sh. Hawk	7,13-19,30	1	Darien Twp.	Harper
Rough-legged Hawk	19	1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	26	1	Yates Twp.	S&T O'Donnell
"	26	1	Sheldon Twp.	S&T O'Donnell
"	26	1	Elma Twp.	R&D Rosche
Merlin	<u>21</u>	1	Buffalo	Suggs
"	<u>29</u>	1	Amherst Twp.	Klick
American Coot	3	350	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	19	10	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	11	1	Wilson Twp.	Chilton
American Woodcock	<u>18</u>	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Burch
"	<u>27</u>	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg
Franklin's Gull	<u>5,6,12,13</u>	1,2,1,1	Whirlpool, Niag. R.	D'Anna
"	<u>6,12</u>	2,1	Whirlpool, Niag. R.	Morgante
"	<u>12,13</u>	1	Whirlpool, Niag. R.	Klick
Little Gull	2	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton
"	4	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>*Black-headed Gull</u>	5	1	Niagara Falls	Paul D. Hess
Bonaparte's Gull	12,28	4100,10620	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Ring-billed Gull	15	2450	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
<u>California Gull</u>	6,12,13	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna
"	12	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Morgante
"	13	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
"	19	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg
Iceland Gull	2;12	5;6	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Bellerby; Morgante
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1	4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Bellerby
"	6	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12,13	3,5	Niagara Falls	Klick
"	28	1	Olcott	Chilton
Glaucous Gull	2;12	2;4	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Bellerby; Morgante
Great Black-b. Gull	4	320	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Bellerby
Black-leg. Kittiwake	2	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton
Eastern Screech-Owl	27	11	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Short-eared Owl	13	4	Shelby Twp.	S&T O'Donnell
"	23	1	Alabama Twp.	Kehlenbeck
"	26	2	North Java	Klick et al
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	17	1 hit by car	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Red-headed Wdpkr.	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	27	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Roberson, Andrie
Northern Shrike	5,29	1,1	Porter Twp.	S&T O'Donnell
"	5	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	10,15,27	1,1,2	Wethersfield	R&D Rosche
"	20	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Common Raven	5	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	9,15	2,1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
Tufted Titmouse	12	2	Chippawa, Ont.	S&T O'Donnell
Carolina Wren	6	2	Queenston, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	2	Bond Lake, Lewiston	Morgante et al
"	31	1	Darien Twp.	Harper
Winter Wren	6,27	1,1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10,15	3,1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	27	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5	1	Grand Island	S. O'Donnell
"	6	1	Queenston, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	12	1	Chippawa, Ont.	S&T O'Donnell
Eastern Bluebird	10	6	Fort Niagara S.P.	S. O'Donnell
"	20	8	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	6	Olcott	Chilton
"	29	3	Jos. Davis S.P.	S. O'Donnell



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
American Robin	27	370	Porter Twp.	D'Anna et al
"	27	190	Porter Twp.	Roberson, Andrle
"	27	437	Porter Twp.	Morgante et al
Northern Mockingbird	9	1	Tifft N.P.	Chilton
American Pipit	18	1	Tifft N.P.	Bogacki
Yellow-r. Warbler	14;27	2;15	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	27	3	Bond Lake, Lewiston	Morgante et al
"	27	1	Porter Twp.	Potter, DiTommaso
Pine Warbler	12	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna
Prairie Warbler	6,13	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg
"	13	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Suggs
"	14	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	D'Anna
Eastern Towhee	21-24	1	Wales Twp.(f)	O. Rosche
Chipping Sparrow	13-17	1	Darien Twp.	Harper
Fox Sparrow	6	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg
"	7	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Chilton
"	18	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Swamp Sparrow	9	1	Tifft N.P.	Chilton
"	27	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna et al
White-cr. Sparrow	10	6	Jos. Davis S.P.	S. O'Donnell
"	27	5	Porter Twp.	D'Anna et al
Snow Bunting	3	250	Attica	R&D Rosche
"	5	28	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	7	25	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Chilton
"	13	40	Shelby Twp.	S&T O'Donnell
"	26	150	North Java	Klick et al
Red-w. Blackbird	3	2	Attica	R&D Rosche
Rusty Blackbird	6	6	Joseph Davis S.P.	Roberson
"	27	3	Wethersfield	R&D Rosche
Common Grackle	3	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Chilton
Brown-head. Cowbird	10,27	3,5	Wethersfield Springs	R&D Rosche
"	10	7	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
"	17	1	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
"	31	2	Hamburg Twp.	Walker
Purple Finch	13	2	Bond Lake, Lewiston	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17-23	1	Darien Twp.	Harper
Red Crossbill	3,9,10,15	2,1,3,2	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	27	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	276
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue, incl. Addenda.....	4
Total for year .....	280

## ADDENDA

1997

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>Gr. Wh-fr. Goose</u>	Dec. 28	2	Adam Beck Resvr., Ont	Sanderson et al
<u>Mew Gull</u>	Dec. 21	1	Jamestown	Sundell

1998

<u>Gr. Wh-fr. Goose</u>	Oct. 18	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
Snow Goose	Nov. 12	1 blue morph	Fort Erie, Ont.	Bellerby
Merlin	Sept. 25	1	Buffalo	Davis
Peregrine Falcon	Aug. 23	1	Buffalo	D & D Suggs
Whimbrel	May 27	7	Reebs Bay, Ont.	Yoerg
Buff-b. Sandpiper	Sept. 14	1	Clarence	Davis
Franklin's Gull	Sept. 6	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Davis
"	Nov. 15-30	1	Whirlpool, Niag. R.	Bellerby
"	Nov. 28	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Bellerby
Bonaparte's Gull	Nov. 11,28	4550,3810	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Glaucous Gull	Nov. 15	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Bellerby
Sabine's Gull	Nov. 15	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Bellerby
"	Nov. 15-19	1	Whirlpool, Niag. R.	Bellerby
Caspian Tern	Sept. 27	1	Buffalo	Davis
* <u>Palm Warbler</u>	Apr. 11	1	Salamanca Twp.	Baird
<i>Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea</i>				
*Pine Grosbeak	Jan. 21	6	Yates Twp.	Broderick
Common Redpoll	Jan. 1-31	1-40	Warsaw	Kunze
Pine Siskin	Jan. 1	1	Warsaw	Kunze

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## Report of the 70th B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count

Compiler: William Bogacki

A fair Christmas count resulted from good weather leading up to the count and on the count day. There were 38 participants in the Buffalo circle. 80 species and 55,003 individuals were counted in the 16 territories.

Facts and figures of the 69th Buffalo Circle Christmas Count are reported below:

Date: **December 20, 1998**

Area: Centering on Grand Island, including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory - from the Gorge below Niagara Falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo,



Weather: Morning partly cloudy, afternoon mostly cloudy. Temperatures ranged from an early morning high of 37° (F) to an afternoon low of 32°(F), with winds from the east at 10-15 mph. The Niagara River was free of ice. The snow cover was zero.

Coverage: 38 observers in 16 parties made observations from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Party-hours were 121 (48 on foot and 73 by car) plus 3.5 hours at feeders and 5.5 hours owling. Party-miles were 777.25 (47.25 on foot and 729.5 by car).

Territories and Observers: (leaders underlined)

A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Rd. and area boundary. Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, Michael Morgante, Patrick O'Donnell. 56 species; 14,682 individuals.

B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. Ed Crohn, Mary-Ann Stegmeier, Virginia Ziebarth, Paul Ziebarth. 24 species; 1,171 individuals.

C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Rd. Michael Hamilton. 28 species; 1,687 individuals.

D. Canada: Black Creek south to the Peace Bridge and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way. Frances Rew, Audrey Horbett. 35 species; 2,070 individuals.

E. Canada: Bowen Rd. south to area boundary and east to the Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. Drew Campbell, Brad Clements, Blayne Farnan, Marcya Foster, Kayo Roy. 37 species; 2,922 individuals.

F. Niagara Falls, NY: Porter Rd., Hyde Park Blvd., Pine Ave. and Main St. south to Niagara River, including Goat and Cayuga Islands and east to Military Rd. Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker. 34 species; 8,911 individuals.

G. North Tonawanda: Military Rd. southeast to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River northeast to area boundary. Donald Roberson, Robert Andrie, Anna Bauer, Jerald Farrell, Gertrude Ruggles, Mary Clemesha. 35 species; 2,635 individuals.

H. Tonawanda: Sheridan Dr. north to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River east to area boundary. Gerald Rising, Michael Galas. 31 species; 2,111 individuals.

J. Buffalo: Sheridan Dr. east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River. Robert Lipp, Donald Brasure. 20 species; 1,027 individuals.

K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Rd., north of Huth and Long Rds. to the Niagara River. Robert Wagner, John Filer. 43 species; 6,921 individuals.

L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Rds, south to Whitehaven Rd. and Stony Point Rd. west to the Niagara River. William Burch, Thomas Burke, 32 species; 1,684 individuals



M, Grand Island: East of Stony Point Rd. and north of Whitehaven to the Niagara River. Michael Zebehazy. 37 species; 11,033 individuals.

N. Grand Island, Whitehaven Rd. south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. west to the Niagara River. Robert Brock, David Cooper. 31 species; 568 individuals.

O. Grand Island: , Whitehaven Rd. south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. east to the Niagara River Jim Landau, Karen Landau. 26 species; 1,677 individuals.

P. Grand Island: Love Rd. south to Spaulding Rd. from the East Branch to the West Branch of the Niagara River. Douglas Happ. 42 species; 1,325 individuals.

Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Rd. to the Niagara River. William Bogacki, Mary Hughes, Edward Ratajczak. 23 species; 598 individuals,

Species Recorded: With reference to the species count, in those instances where a species was reported in three or fewer territories, letters in parentheses indicate the territories where the species was observed.

Common Loon	2 (A)	Great Horned Owl	4 (A)(C)(P)
Pied-billed Grebe	2 (D)(F)	Long-eared Owl	10 (C)
Horned Grebe	1 (F)	Belted Kingfisher	6
D.-crested Cormorant	8 (A)(G)(J)	Red-bellied Wdpkr.	12
Great Blue Heron	64	Downy Wdpkr.	115
Tundra Swan	73 (P)(Q)	Hairy Wdpkr.	11
Canada Goose	4,198	Nor. Flicker	28
Wood Duck	1 (K)	Blue Jay	286
Green-winged Teal	8 (H)(K)(P)	Black-c. Chickadee	565
Am. Black Duck	88	Tufted Titmouse	43
Gadwall	53 (A)(F)(K)	Red-b. Nuthatch	2(G)
American Wigeon	17 (A)(F)	White-b. Nuthatch	52
Canvasback	1,205 Lowest since 1993	Brown Creeper	17
Redhead	6 (D)	Winter Wren	3 (K)(P)(Q)
Greater Scaup	6 (A)(P)	Golden-cr. Kinglet	52
scaup sp.	704 (F)	<u>Ruby-cr. Kinglet</u>	1 (D)
Bonaparte's Gull	332	E. Bluebird	33
Ring-billed Gull	4,536	Amer. Robin	439
Herring Gull	11,009	N. Mockingbird	8
Iceland Gull	4 (A)	Cedar Waxwing	36 (M)
L. Bl.-backed Gull	7 (A)	N. Shrike	1 (N)
Glaucous Gull	1 (A)	Eur. Starling	17,760
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	363	Yellow-r. Warbler	30 (A)(K)
Rock Dove	2,058	Prairie Warbler	1 (K) First ever
Mouring Dove	635	N. Cardinal	131
E. Screech Owl	8	Am. Tree Sparrow	196
		Song Sparrow	16

Swamp Sparrow	6 (P)(Q)	Com. Grackle	1 (H)
White-thr. Sparrow	22	Brown-h. Cowbird	23 (A)(F)(H) low
White-cr. Sparrow	6 (C)(E)	House Finch	416
Red-w. Blackbird	50 (A)	Am. Goldfinch	131
Rusty Blackbird	22 (A)(M) Highest ever	House Sparrow	2,100

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**Summary of Hotline and Dial-a-Bird Activity - December 1998**

Mild December weather resulted in a wide range of reports to Dial-a-Bird. The Niagara River had its gulls of course, but the real surprise was a Prairie Warbler at Buckhorn Island State Park. Thanks to Peter Yoerg and Barbara Henderson, who found and reported the bird immediately on the 6<sup>th</sup>, many other birders were able to follow Dial-a-Bird and Internet directions to see this unexpected species up until December 20. There is a bittersweet aspect to a misplaced and less-than-hardy visitor in winter - when real winter arrives, survival is unlikely. A by-product of the search for the Prairie Warbler was an American Woodcock, reported by several observers nearby at the Grand Island Water Treatment Plant.

Other opportunities for birders to follow during the month were reports of a Parasitic Jaeger lingering in Dunkirk Harbor during the first week of the month and eight Short-eared Owls in the Town of Sheldon in Wyoming County. And, a personal favorite of mine, a female Merlin was rediscovered at the Main Street campus of the University of Buffalo after a three-year absence.

David F. Suggs

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**Turkey Vulture Nesting in Barn**

The usual nesting sites listed for Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) are precipitous cliffs, caves and hollow stumps, or in the midst of dense shrubbery (Bent, 1936). Bent also reports two unusual sites - an abandoned pigsty in woods and a neglected barn also in woods. These same two nests are cited in *A Field Guide of Birds' Nests* (Harrison, 1975) as unusual and no additional indoor nests were reported.

On June 20, 1998 I learned that two small down-covered Turkey Vultures had been discovered in a dilapidated barn not far from my cabin in Chautauqua County. I found these birds that day and estimated they were approximately three weeks old. They were huddled together against the north wall of the barn in a six by four foot space which had been partitioned off for chickens years ago. The floor was covered with an inch or two of loose chaff but there was no evidence of any kind of a nest having been made. The birds looked healthy and well fed and were able to move about and hiss loudly. I made weekly visits to the barn to study the birds' development. Following are excerpts from my notes:

June 27, - Birds now about size of bantam chickens, downy except for black skin of head and narrow black line at edge of wings where wing feathers were emerging. Noted a marked difference in size, particularly with reference to the size of heads and bills. Both birds hissing continuously. There was a low, rumbling undertone to the hissing - almost a growl.



July 3 - Took pictures. Wing feathers showing at least two inches and tail feathers appearing, making a narrow black band at end of tail. Black feathers scattered through down on backs.

July 10 - Much more black in wings and tails. Smaller bird raised its wings and rushed towards me as I stooped to take pictures. It stopped a foot short of me and thankfully did not regurgitate. Most of this floor of the barn has rotted away, making a quick retreat impractical.

July 18 - Birds not together. Smaller one in adjacent area of same size. Larger bird still quite downy with exception of wings, tail, and a few black feathers on back and sides at bend of wing. Smaller bird raised its wings in a threatening posture. Wing feathers well developed with only an area of upper wing coverts still downy. There was also a wide band of black feathers on each side of the lower belly which did not quite meet in center. Smaller bird definitely more aggressive and plumage further advanced.

July 25 - Birds together. Almost full grown. Smaller bird again rushed toward me with wings fully opened, outer primaries separated. Belly now completely black feathered as was back. Still downy on breast and legs and a downy ruff around neck. Larger bird still quite downy.

July 31 - Both birds on large beams in open part of barn. Smaller bird 90% black-plumaged. Some down on neck ruff and undertail coverts. Flew 15 feet in level flight. Dropped to lower level and disappeared among pieces of abandoned furniture. Took off from perch on refrigerator and was able to fly back to first floor. Larger bird walked along beams, hopping from one to another spreading wings, but did not fly.

August 3 - Both young present. Larger bird making shorter flights. Smaller flying freely in top of barn.

August 5 - One bird perched in top window. Little puffs of down around neck. Otherwise all black. Did not see larger bird. This was the last time I visited the barn but Ray Budniewski told me later that he had seen both birds perched in a tree near the barn on August 10th. A successful conclusion and just in time as the new property owner had the barn demolished and there was no evidence of its existence by the end of August.

If the birds were approximately three weeks old on June 20th, they would have been between nine and ten weeks old when fully fledged. This is in accord with Bent who states that from eight to ten weeks are passed in and about the nest before the young are able to fly.

It would seem that with the demise of small family farms in our study area and the resultant neglect of barns and outbuildings, we should be alert to these buildings being used as nesting sites by Turkey Vultures. Tom Burke reported that in 1997 a Turkey Vulture had laid an egg in a garage on Grand Island but that nothing further came of it. Also, a note by Faye Clancy in the *Allegany County Bird Club News* told of two Turkey Vulture chicks "going in and out of tent style old barn boards on the ground as though that was where they were staying". Perhaps abandoned farm buildings will soon be listed as more usual sites for Turkey Vulture nests.

Frances Rew

#### Literature cited:

- Bent, A. C., *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Part One*, 1937. Dover Publications.  
Harrison, Hal H., *A Field Guide of Birds' Nests*, 1975. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.  
Clancy, Faye, *Allegany County Bird Club News*, Volume XXXII, Number 7, September, 1998.

### Membership Update

## BOS MEETINGS

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-4311).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

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## FIELD TRIPS

- Mar. 20: **Saturday** not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain of eastern Niagara County. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Route 78 at the Tops Market, a block north of the Route 104 intersection. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Mar. 28: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, on the south side of Main Street, 0.1 mile east of Transit Road. Leader: Morgan Jones (433-5687)
- Apr. 4: Sunday. Daylight Saving Time begins. Set clocks ahead 1 hour.
- Apr. 11: Sunday. BOS April Bird Count. Compiler: TBA
- Apr. 17: **Saturday** not Sunday. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bob Evans parking lot in Niagara Falls, NY where I-190 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 miles into Canada on the escarpment above Grimsby. Last year we had a good flight. Do not go if it is raining. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- Sept. 17-19 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs in Elmira, NY and hosted by Chemung Valley Audubon Society at the Riverview Holiday Inn. The Federation's Web Page can be found at: <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.



Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mr. Michael Morgante, 14 Meadow Lea, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH: JANUARY, 1999

It was a memorable January for the Buffalo area. In sharp contrast to the mild weather of the previous year, 1999 roared into Western New York with some of the harshest winter conditions in 20 years. The first half of the month featured near constant snow and well below normal temperatures. The snowpack at mid-month was the greatest since the infamous winter of 1976-77. But the weather made a dramatic turnaround as the month's last two weeks were very mild and dry with very little snowfall. Most of the huge snowpack had melted by month's end.

Overall January had normal temperatures. However, it was the sixth wettest and third snowiest January in the 115 years of record. Although the average temperature was just 0.1° F. below normal, it masked the extremes. The month's first 15 days averaged 14° F. while the last 16 days averaged 32° F. All but one of the first 15 days were colder than normal, while all of the last were normal or above. No temperature records were set.

Snowfall was the big story of the month. More snow fell during the first two weeks of 1999 than in all of 1998 in Buffalo. The 65.1 inch total was the third greatest amount ever for January (the most was 68.3 in 1977) and the fourth greatest for any month (68.4 in December 1985). It appeared that these records would be shattered after a whopping 60.5 inches fell during the first 15 days, but the snow drought during the last two weeks changed that. The foot of snow on January 12 was the only major snowfall, but seven other days each received over four inches. They began as lake effect but general type snows set in also, with about 30 inches derived from each. The repeated storms gradually brought the area to a near standstill as the depth reached 25 to 35 inches across the entire region by mid-month. The siege of snow suddenly gave way to thawing conditions on January 16-17; a week later a stronger thaw ensued, melting most of the snowpack and leaving just a thin layer by month's end.

The strong warm-up and runoff led to flooding on January 23-24 as ice jams developed on some local creeks. Tonawanda and Ellicott Creeks rose above flood stage for a time and during the following few days some of the worst flooding in 40 years was reported in parts of Lancaster and Bowmansville.



Lake Erie started the month at near record warmth but quickly cooled to 32°F. by January 9, close to the normal date. There was much ice cover in the western two-thirds of the lake by mid-month but the eastern basin was still mostly open. January was also a dismal month with only 17% of the possible sunshine. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet.)

Deep snow cover and extremely low temperatures often have devastating effects on winter bird populations, especially with those species that are induced to stay farther north by mild weather at the early part of the season. However, direct evidence is often difficult to come by. That makes the story of a particular American Woodcock in Fort Erie, Ontario especially interesting. It had been observed probing for and getting grubs and a few worms from a snow-free area above a septic field in a suburban back yard. The bird was first noted on Christmas day and verified by Mike Morgante on January 3 when he photographed it. After almost a foot of snow fell on the Fort Erie area over the night of January 3-4, the woodcock was found frozen to death the next morning. This was the first January record ever documented in the B.O.S. study area and the latest in the season (the December 1998 individual was the second latest).

There were some other signs of the difficult times birds were having during the very deep snows of the first two weeks of the month. The *Buffalo News* featured a story on January 16 about the S.P.C.A. and the atypical amount of calls they had been receiving about birds in unusual predicaments. The article pictured a female Ruddy Duck that had been discovered on East and West Road in West Seneca. It also mentioned a dead American Coot that was found at the base of a Grand Island tower, and a grebe that was rehabilitated and released. A Hermit Thrush, two Northern Cardinals and an American Goldfinch were also being nursed back to health.

Adaptability was the rule with some other species. Observers throughout the region described the big rush of birds to their feeding stations as soon as the deep snow came and made normal feeding in the wild more difficult or impossible. Two observers described their observations of Red-tailed Hawks stooping and successfully catching Rock Doves as prey, an act not usually associated with this species of raptor. And what other bird could be classed as more adaptable than the American Crow? They usually eat most anything associated with man's activities. However, watching them balance on tiny branchlets of the Staghorn Sumac as they attempted to reach the fuzzy fruits, added humor rather than dismay over the icy road conditions as this writer drove Route 400 between East Aurora and Buffalo on several occasions!

Many backyard bird feeding enthusiasts are always hoping that a rarity or some kind of "special" bird will show up at their feeders. That happened this month at the James Bottlinger residence in Alden, where a Varied Thrush put in an appearance for a few days. This was about the thirteenth individual known to occur in our area since 1970. A far-western bird, most typical of moist Pacific Coast forests, it occurs every year in the Northeast, and usually at feeding stations. This winter was no exception to that rule. Winter 1998-99 will probably long be remembered for the rash of western birds that have shown up in the East. Other examples include the three separate Mountain Bluebirds in eastern New York State, a Townsend's Solitaire in southern New Jersey, scattered but rather numerous reports of Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Virginia's Warbler. Brewer's Blackbird, another western species that is becoming increasingly frequent in the East, was found this month at a feeder in Chippawa, Ont. Most any western bird can show up in the East... and not always in areas adjacent to the immediate coast where this phenomenon is most obvious. All feeding station operators should be aware of the possibilities, and remember to call other birders should a "problem bird" appear that is not supposed to be here.

Ice conditions on Lake Erie created two noteworthy waterfowl displays in areas that remained ice-free. The placement of the ice boom across the entrance to the Niagara River in early January apparently created favorable feeding and resting conditions in that section of the river between Buffalo and Fort Erie. The



enormous number of waterfowl concentrated in this relatively small area was quite a sight. Various estimates placed the number of birds between 10,000 and 50,000. By far the majority were Greater Scaup and Common Mergansers, but there was a sprinkling of almost every kind of diving duck that ever occurs in Western New York, including all three scoter species, all three merganser species, and Oldsquaw. The "crown jewel" however, was the male Tufted Duck first found by Mike Morgante along a section of the Fort Erie shoreline known to birders as "Jaeger Rocks" on January 17. This well marked but not so easy to pick out male remained there for the better part of two weeks, enabling numerous U.S. and Canadian observers to find and enjoy this rare species that normally occurs in northern Europe and Asia. This individual should probably be considered the first record for the B.O.S. study area of a truly "wild" bird that fits within the parameters of its currently understood distribution and occurrence in other parts of eastern North America, where it has become regular in small numbers every year. Previous B.O.S. study area records were of a single bird in East Aurora in July 1994 that was considered a "probable escape" and another at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant in July 1996 whose origin was considered questionable. Brendan Klick commented in his report that the Zebra Mussel is a favorite food of the Tufted Duck in Europe; the spread of the mussel to Great Britain has enabled the duck to make a stronghold there. Who knows what the consequences will be in North America?

The other noteworthy waterfowl display was on the south shore of Lake Erie at Dunkirk Harbor. Some 18 species of waterfowl occurred at one time or another in this port, always kept ice-free by the warm water discharge from the Niagara Mohawk power plant. This plant has recently been sold and some local birders fear that the new owners might discontinue dumping warm water into the Harbor, thereby eliminating one of Western New York's prime winter waterfowl sites.

Richard C. Rosche

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	1	1	Buffalo	Rising et al
Pied-billed Grebe	1;10	1;1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna; Jacklin et al
"	1	1	Buffalo	Rising et al
"	20	14	Dunkirk Harbor	R&D Rosche
Horned Grebe	10	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	24	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	3	Somerset	Morgante et al
"	31	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
D.-crested Cormorant	10	3	Niagara Falls	Jacklin et al
"	10	5	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby
"	20	30	Dunkirk Harbor	R&D Rosche
Great Blue Heron	21	6	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Andrle, Thill, Rising
Snow Goose	7	3 wh.	East Aurora	R&D Rosche
"	17-31	1 bl.	Fort Erie, Ont.	R&D Rosche; several others
Mute Swan	6	2	St. Catharines, Ont.	Roy
"	17;23	1;1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby; Potter, D'Anna
"	17	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	23,31	2	Olcott	Potter, D'Anna
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	17	6	Barcelona Harbor	Rew, Horbett
(banded, released 6/98 in Cambridge, Ont.)				
Tundra Swan	20;21	1;1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wojewodzki; Mosher
"	22	144	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	24	2	Pomfret	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	6	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Chilton
American Wigeon	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rising et al
Northern Shoveler	8	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Roy
Canvasback	17	5000	Niagara River	Roy et al
"	24	3000	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Klick
Redhead	17;31	400;700	Niagara River	Roy; Rising et al
"	20	40	Barcelona Harbor	Wojewodzki
Ring-necked Duck	1;23	15;16	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rising; Morgante
"	20	3	Barcelona Harbor	Wojewodzki
"	30	1	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	R&D Rosche
<u>Tufted Duck</u>	17,23	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	24	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Landau
"	24	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Rising et al
"	24	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Wojewodzki
"	26	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
Lesser Scaup	17	12	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Morgante, Klick
Harlequin Duck	31	2	Shadigee	Morgante
Surf Scoter	17,23	1,1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Morgante
"	20;21	1;1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wojewodzki; Mosher
White-winged Scoter	23,31	105,390	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	25,26	10	Fort Erie, Ont.	R&D Rosche
Black Scoter	18	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna
"	18	2	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
"	24	1 m	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna
Oldsquaw	10	1203	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Jacklin et al
"	17	25	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Common Goldeneye	19	200	Fort Erie, Ont.	Wojewodzki
Hooded Merganser	21	13	Tonawanda	Andrle, Thill, Rising
"	23	15	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Hooded Merganser	30	1	Wilson	R&D Rosche
Red-br. Merganser	19	200	Fort Erie, Ont.	Wojewodzki
Common Merganser	17	3000	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
Ruddy Duck	10,17;21	3,2;1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante; Yoerg
"	17	2	Barcelona Harbor	Rew, Horbett
"	20	2	Dunkirk Harbor	R&D Rosche, Wojewodzki
Bald Eagle	9;10	1;1	Queenston, Ont.	Roy; Jacklin et al
"	17	1	Chippawa, Ont.	R&D Rosche
"	17	1 ad.	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	R. Rosche
"	24	1	Porter	Horne
"	29	1 imm.	Navy Island	Chilton
Red-shouldered Hawk	6-18	1	Darien	Harper
Rough-legged Hawk	2-31	10 reports	numerous locations	various observers
"	17	4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	S&T O'Donnell
"	20	4	Cherry Creek	Wojewodzki
"	23	7	Dayton	Rew, Horbett
Merlin	<u>20</u>	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna
"	<u>23</u>	1	Buffalo	Klick
"	<u>31</u>	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	<u>31</u>	1	Yates	Morgante et al
"	<u>31</u>	2	Buffalo	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	<u>1</u>	1	Chippawa, Ont.	Rising
"	<u>21</u>	1	Amherst	Burch
"	<u>31</u>	1	Buffalo Harbor	Rew
American Coot	3	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	17	9	Port Weller, Ont.	Roy et al
"	17;20	160;75	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew; R&D Rosche
"	20	15	Barcelona Harbor	Wojewodzki
"	23	1	Olcott	Potter, D'Anna
"	30	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	R&D Rosche
American Woodcock	<u>3</u>	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Little Gull	4	1	Buffalo	Vallone
"	17;23	1;7	Lewiston	Horne; D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	29	17	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Bonaparte's Gull	5,26,29	7340,141,4465	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	2;17;31	7;5;5	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Morgante; D'Anna; Rising
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2;10;31	3;1;1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Morgante; Jackin; Rising
"	17;24	1;1	Niagara Falls	Morgante; D'Anna
"	26	1	Olcott	Chilton
Glaucous Gull	2,17	2,2	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Morgante
"	24	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna
Mourning Dove	2	265	Alabama	Kehlenbeck

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1;17	1;2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Rising; Yoerg
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1-8	1	Batavia(f)	J&M Mason
Northern Shrike	1	1	St. David's, Ont.	Roy et al
"	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Roy, Myslowka
"	4	1	Wales	O. Rosche
"	16	1	Jos. Davis S.P.	Horne
"	18;28	1;1	Porter	S&T O'Donnell; Wojewodzki
"	19	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	23;30	1;1	Yates	D'Anna; R&D Rosche
"	24	1	Hartland	J&K Landau
"	30	1	Point Breeze, L.Ont.	R&D Rosche
Horned Lark	8,11	240,90	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Roy
Horned Lark	30	100	Yates	R&D Rosche
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	7	50	Pomfret	Moshers
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	7	25	Pomfret	Moshers
Tufted Titmouse	1,17	3,3	Chippawa, Ont.	Roy et al
Red-br. Nuthatch	1-31	1	Darien(f)	Harper
"	27	4	Williamsville Glen	Klick
Carolina Wren	1-8	2	Batavia	J&M Mason
"	1-31	2 max.	East Aurora	R&D Rosche
"	3	1	Colden(f)	Comer
"	9	1	Darien	Harper
"	10	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Jacklin et al
"	10	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	11	1	Pomfret(f)	Moshers
"	21	2	Goat Island	Andrle, Thill, Rising
"	27	2	Snyder	Klick
Winter Wren	2	1	Queenston, Ont.	Morgante et al
Eastern Bluebird	3	4	Lewiston	Horne
"	4	10	Wales	O. Rosche
"	4,11	12,7	Jos. Davis S.P.	Horne
"	6,13	1,1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	16	1	Newstead	Kehlenbeck
"	20	4	Pomfret	Moshers
"	28	8	Porter	Wojewodzki
"	31	4	Olcott	Morgante et al
American Robin	10	300	Porter	D'Anna
"	10	350	Ontario Lakeshore	Rising et al
"	17	1000	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	300	Orleans Co. shore	R&D Rosche
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	28	1	Alden	Seamans
"	30	1	Alden	Fox
Northern Mockingbird	3	1	Darien	Harper
"	10	1	Buffalo	Morgante



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Northern Mockingbird	20	1	Pomfret	R&D Rosche
Yellow-r. Warbler	2	1	Queenston, Ont.	Morgante
"	10	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	21	4	Goat Island	Andrle, Thill, Rising
Eastern Towhee	1-31	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
White-cr. Sparrow	17	1	Portland	Rew, Horbett
"	23	5	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	5	Chippawa, Ont.	Rising et al
"	31	6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew et al
Lapland Longspur	6,7	1,3	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
"	8,11	7,4	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Roy et al
"	18	22	Somerset	S&T O'Donnell
"	23,31	6,15	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	28	5	Carlton	Wojewodzki
Snow Bunting	7;20	50;50	Pomfret	Moshers; R&D Rosche
"	11	120	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Roy, Myslowka
"	21	20	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	23	750	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	23	100	Sheldon	R&D Rosche
"	24	100	Yates	G&D Rising
Northern Cardinal	17	50	Chippawa-Niag.o.t.L.	R&D Rosche
Red-w. Blackbird	1;17	2;15	Chippawa, Ont.	Roy; R&D Rosche
"	17	13	Pomfret	Rew, Horbett
"	19	5	Darien(f)	Harper
Rusty Blackbird	10;17	5;7	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg; Roy et al
"	16	2	Newstead	Kehlenbeck
"	17	3	Chippawa, Ont.	Roy et al
"	19	1	Darien(f)	Harper
Brewer's Blackbird	31	2	Chippawa, Ont.	Murr
Brown-headed Cowbird	1;17	4;7	Chippawa, Ont.	Roy; R&D Rosche
"	1	15	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Rising et al
"	8-19	18 max.	Kenmore(f)	Thills
Purple Finch	7,12	4,2	Pomfret(f)	Moshers
"	28-31	3	Darien(f)	Harper

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue ..... 103

Total for year ..... 103

Other species recorded: Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove, E. Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted

Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

### Thayer's Gull Record

Thayer's Gull                  Dec. 12                  1                  Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.    Klick

Special Note on Thayer's Gull: The Statisticians will not evaluate verification reports of Thayer's Gull because of the difficulty in making reasonably certain judgments on them. This is owing to the fact that there is evidence of interbreeding between it and Iceland Gull and considerable specimen evidence from widely separated localities that color and pattern differences between them are completely bridged by individual variation. However, the Statisticians still request that verification reports be submitted for any purported sightings of this form so that future researchers can make use of this information. Documented reports of Thayer's Gull will be listed separately from the "Noteworthy Records" section in *The Prothonotary*. (Date *Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition [B.O.S. 1998], page 6.)

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### Summary of Hotline and Dial-a-Bird Activity – January 1999

Waterfowl concentrations on the Niagara River and at Dunkirk Harbor were the main source of Dial-a-Bird reports during January. A Tufted Duck, first reported January 17 among thousands of waterfowl concentrated off the Lake Erie ice-boom, generated reports until the end of the month. At least 22 waterfowl species were reported from the Niagara River. Also of interest were 6 banded Trumpeter Swans in Barcelona Harbor, traced to a release program in Ontario.

After ice and snowstorms occurred during mid-January, there were several reports of Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and Eastern Towhees utilizing backyard feeders. Red-tailed Hawks were also affected by the heavy snowcover. On Grand Island, Tom Burke reported an observation of a pair of red-tails cooperatively pursuing starlings around restaurant dumpsters.

David F. Suggs

### WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1999

Compiled by Bill Burch

Following are the results of the 45th Annual Waterfowl Count for Region 1 of the Federation of New State Bird Clubs. The statewide results will be published in the Federation journal, *The Kingbird*, at a later date. The 1999 count dates were January 16 through 24 with January 17 as the target date. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	8	average (I & K)
Horned Grebe	14	average (I & K)
Double-cr. Cormorant	7	average since 1991 (I)
Snow Goose	4	record high; surpasses 2 in 1983 (M)
Canada Goose	2,493	average
Mute Swan	3	high, usually absent (B, D, F)
Trumpeter Swan	6	first for count (I)
Tundra Swan	144	highest by far (F & G)
Wood Duck	6	average (J & M)
Gadwall	15	low (E, F, J)
Am. Black Duck	177	average for last 5 years
Mallard	7,737	record high, surpasses 7438 in 1986
Northern Pintail	2	low (M)
Green-winged Teal	3	above average (J & M)
Canvasback	7,328	average for 1996-1999
Redhead	398	record high, surpasses 337 in 1984
Ring-necked Duck	13	average (F & K)
Tufted Duck	1	first for count (F)
Greater Scaup	7,440	record high, surpasses 6731 in 1993
Lesser Scaup	37	average
Scaup species	2	
Surf Scoter	1	rare (F)
White-winged Scoter	72	average, highly variable
Black Scoter	1	rare (D)
Oldsquaw	2,126	average, highly variable (B, C, D)
Bufflehead	448	average
Common Goldeneye	4,426	average
Hooded Merganser	33	high
Common Merganser	1,704	low
Red-br. Merganser	250	average
Ruddy Duck	6	high (F & I)
American Coot	165	high, most were in Section I
Unidentified	333	
Total Species	31	record high
Total Individuals	35,403	third highest, high was 46,175 in 1960

### Discussion

In the first two weeks of January the region had over 60 inches of snow plus low temperatures. However, by January 17 the weather had improved and the main roads were open, but parking on shoulders was impossible and the access on foot to shorelines was difficult. Shallow bodies of water were frozen, thus explaining the total of only two ducks in the three refuges of the Alabama Swamps for parties N and O. Lake Ontario was open except for 100 yards of shore ice. The eastern end of Lake Erie was frozen, as was Buffalo Harbor. Along the

Lake Erie shore there was some open water in harbors and stream mouths. The Niagara River was open as usual.

Six Trumpeter Swans were seen by Party I in Barcelona Harbor. These birds, a first for the Count in our Region, had yellow wing tags and a band on the right leg. They were hatched in 1997 in Cambridge, Ontario, released in June of 1998, and had flown across Lake Erie.

The 144 Tundra Swans found January 22 along the Canadian shore of the Niagara River were extraordinary and more typical of March. The average is about one swan per Count on the River.

Oldsquaws are a Lake Ontario specialty. The 2126 seen were at the mouth of the Niagara River and nearby on the Lake. At the east end of the Lake near Kingston, 105,614 Oldsquaws were counted on January 10, 1999 in the Waterfowl Inventory of the Toronto Ornithological Club.

Mallards were high at 777. About half of these were in residential areas. Ordinances against feeding in Williamsville Glen and the Cheektowaga Town Park had diverted large flocks to other handout spots. An exception was the Clarence Town Park where two town employees were feeding 575 Mallards.

The Tufted Duck was a first for our Count. Although it was seen January 17 on the Canadian side about a mile upstream of the Peace Bridge, it was in a flock of Greater Scaup that often drifted close to the bridge. The Peace Bridge is the boundary of the Count territory on the Canadian side – everything below it can be counted but only birds in New York waters can be counted above it. We explained to Walt Sabin, the Statewide Coordinator, that we were bending the boundary a bit to include the Tufted Duck and that he could treat the record as he saw fit. This two-mile stretch of open water between the bridge and the ice boom can have huge flocks of waterfowl. Some portion of these, although distant, is surveyed by the party on the New York shore. Waterfowl near the Canadian shore would be more easily surveyed from that side, but there is no plan to extend the territory to permit this.

Bald Eagle sightings were reported per request of the DEC. Five were seen: one adult at the mouth of the Niagara River; one immature two miles up the River; one adult on Grand Island West River; and two adults at Oak Orchard WMA, perhaps the nesting pair of Iroquois NWR.

#### **Territories Covered and Leader of Each Party**

A - Lake Ontario, Point Breeze to Olcott – J. Farrell

B - Lake Ontario, Olcott to Fort Niagara – P. Yoerg

C - Fort Niagara to base of falls, U.S. side – M. Davis

D - Niagara-on-the-Lake to base of falls, Canadian side – M. Zebehazy

E - Buffalo Harbor to Goat Island, New York side – J. Thill

F - Peace Bridge to Horseshoe Falls, Canadian side – D. Roberson

G - Grand Island, NY (in upper Niagara River) – D. Brasure

H - Lake Erie, Buffalo south harbor to Silver Creek – D. Suggs

I - Lake Erie, Silver Creek to Pennsylvania border – F. Rew

J - Jamestown and Chautauqua Lake – R. Sundell

K - Olean and Salamanca area – T. Baird

L - Allegany County – D. Burton

M - Batavia area – G. Seamans

N - Oak Orchard and Tonawanda WMA's – D. Endres, Jr.

O - Iroquois NWR – E. Ratajczak

P - Towns of Amherst, Clarence, and Cheektowaga – W. Burch

Q - Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery (City of Buffalo) – B. Klick

R - South Park, Cazenovia Park and Creek (City of Buffalo and West Seneca) – W. Burch



**Participants**

The compiler extends his thanks to the BOS members and friends who took part in this annual count: Bob Andrle, Tim Baird, Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Olive Burch, Tom Burke, Doris Burton, Gerry Condren, Mike Davis, Steve Eaton, Don Endres, Jr., Jerry Farrell, Barbara Henderson, Audrey Horbett, Brendan Klick, Brian Lewandowski, Bob Lipp, Max Mason, Ed Ratajczak, Fran Rew, Gerry Rising, Don Roberson, Bert Schweigert, Carmen Scutella, Gail Seamans, Bill Seleen, Bob Sommerville, David Suggs, Debbie Suggs, Bob Sundell, Joe Thill, Jeffrey Tome, Kirk Vanstrom, Anne Vogt, Larry Wilson, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebehazy

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**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

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**BOS MEETINGS**

## 1999 Vaughan Lecture

**Dr. Peter Sherrington**  
**"Golden Eagle Gold Rush"**  
Wednesday, April 28, 1999  
7:30 P.M.

Since 1992, Dr. Peter Sherrington and hundreds of volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation have been studying a population of Golden Eagles as they migrate through the Rocky Mountains west of Calgary, Alberta. Over 44,500 Golden Eagles have been counted as they move north to their arctic breeding territories in the spring and as they return to their wintering range on the western Great Plains. Learn about the significance of this amazing biannual phenomenon.

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### FIELD TRIPS

- Mar. 20: **Saturday**, not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain of eastern Niagara and western Orleans counties. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Route 78 at the Top's Market, a block north of the Route 104 intersection. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Mar. 28: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, on the south side of Main Street, 0.1 mile east of Transit Road. Leader: Morgan Jones (433-5687)
- Apr. 4: Sunday. Daylight Saving Time begins. Set clocks ahead 1 hour.
- Apr. 11: Sunday. BOS April Bird Count. Compiler: TBA
- Apr. 17: **Saturday**, not Sunday. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bob Evans parking lot in Niagara Falls, NY where I-190 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 miles into Canada on the escarpment above Grimsby. Last year we had a good flight. Do not go if it is raining. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- Apr. 25: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, 0.1 mile east of Main & Transit. We will join the Rochester GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay State Park picnic shelter. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS and Mike Zebehazy (662-6987).
- May 1, 8, 15, 22: Saturdays. Delaware Park Audubon bird walks. These are half-day walks, led by BOS members. Meet at 8:00 a.m. on Rumsey Road at Windsor. (Rumsey, off of Delaware Ave., is the south boundary of Delaware Park.)
- May 2: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: TBA.



May 8: Saturday. Tiffit Nature Preserve Audubon bird walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Tiffit parking lot. Leader: Ed Ratajczak. We suggest confirming attendance by calling Mary Hughes at 636-1719.

May 16: Sunday. BOS May Bird Court. Compiler: TBA.

Sept. 17-19 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at the Riverview Holiday Inn in Elmira, NY, hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. The Federation's Web Page can be found at: <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

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For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mr. Michael Morgante, 14 Meadow Lea, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: [Morgmmm@AOL.com](mailto:Morgmmm@AOL.com).

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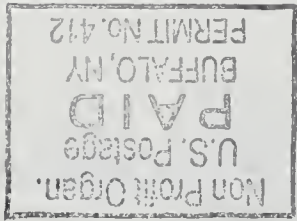
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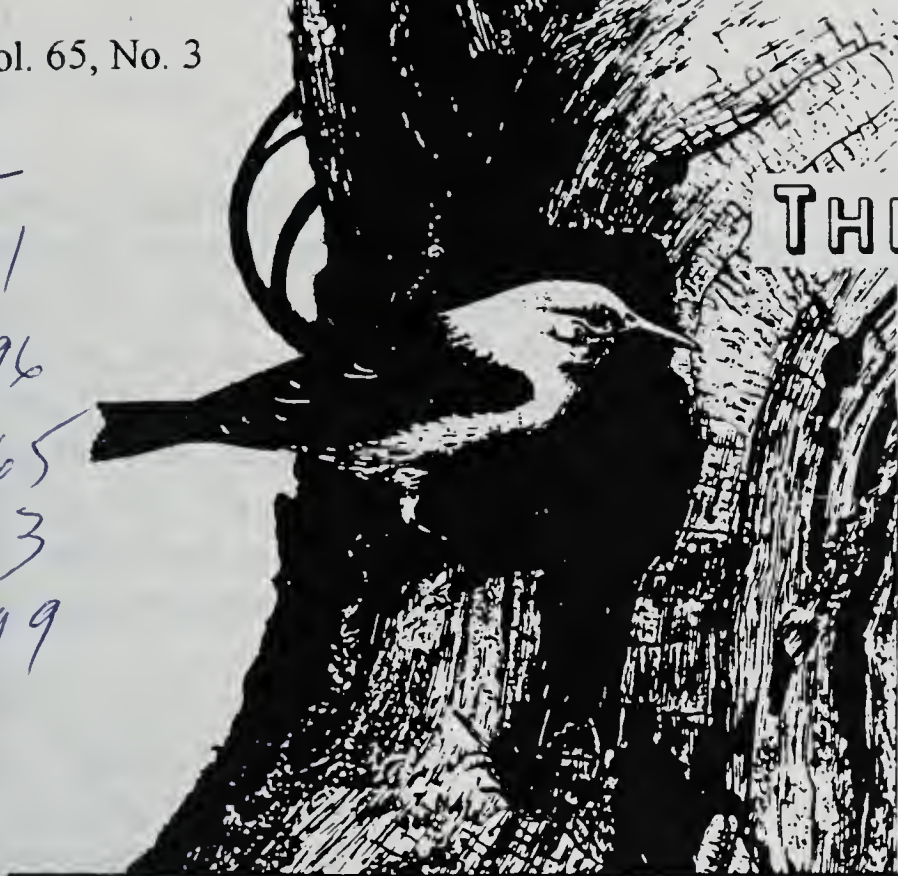
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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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## THE MONTH: FEBRUARY, 1999

It was a tame February on the Niagara Frontier! The harsh winter conditions of early January faded even further from memory as the Buffalo area enjoyed a mild, dry, and bright February. There was little weather of interest during the month. The first two weeks were mild. A sharp warm-up on Feb. 11-12 was followed by a drastic cool down at mid-month. A quick 2-3 inch snowfall on Feb. 7 caused hazardous driving.

Temperatures averaged 31.0° F., 6.5° F. above normal for the month. It was the tenth warmest February in the 129 years of record at Buffalo. Twenty-two of the 28 days were on the mild side and a record of 63° F. was established on Feb. 12, exceeding the previous record of 60° F. in 1965. There was one brief cold spell from Feb. 19 to 23.

Precipitation was a meager 1.10 inches, the eighth driest in 129 years. The greatest daily total was only 0.23 inch on the last day of the month. Snowfall totaled 6.9 inches, the 11th least in 115 years. The largest fall was only 2.5 inches and only five days had any snowcover at all.

February was fairly sunny as well, with 43 % of the possible being received. Eight days were mostly sunny while 13 were mostly cloudy. Winds were moderate with the peak gust of 45 m.p.h. occurring on Feb. 12.

The winter of 1998-99 (December through February) wound up to be the 21st warmest in 129 years, simply remarkable considering the brutal first two weeks of January, when over 60 of the season's 83.8 inches of snow fell. The winter was an easy one. The mercury failed to fall to zero or below at Buffalo for the second consecutive winter (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. on the World Wide Web).

Birders in the Northeast were considering this "the winter of the gulls". Some of the species common to European countries made spectacular inroads into North America. Consider the 32 Black-headed Gulls at one place at one time in Newfoundland and the widespread reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in numbers from many Northeastern locations, both coastal and inland along rivers and man-made impoundments. An Asiatic Slaty-backed Gull, several Black-tailed Gulls originating from the same region, and a southern hemisphere Kelp



Gulls have also been much in the news from east coast locations. We in the B.O.S. territory had our gulls mostly in November and December, but February with its ten species was probably more interesting this year than in most. The center of attention for most of the interesting gulls was the lower Niagara River in the Lewiston-Queenston area. A Black-headed Gull occurred from about Jan. 30 through February 21, a first winter-plumaged Black-legged Kittiwake was noted on several occasions and a population of up to 28 Little Gulls was noted among the hordes of Bonaparte's Gulls that found favorable feeding conditions in that area. Towards the end of the month the occurrence of these gulls was very sporadic; at certain times on certain days one could find few, if any, Bonaparte's Gulls, much less the rarer species. Apparently, almost the entire population of small-sized gulls spent some time on the open waters of Lake Ontario, for some 1900 Bonaparte's were noted on February 20 as they flew into the lake at the mouth of the river.

In B.O.S. territory this might be remembered as "the winter of the swans". There were counts of up to 144 Tundra Swans on the Niagara River in January and as many as 231 during February, unprecedented numbers by a long shot when it was generally rare in winter prior to about 1995. We suspect that many of these were individuals that were induced to stay this far north by the extraordinarily mild conditions in November and December. When freeze-up finally happened, these individuals made their way to the nearest open water, the Niagara River, rather than continue on their way to the more normal central Atlantic Coast wintering areas. Later February numbers were probably augmented by early northbound transients. Several Mute Swans were reported in open water areas. Six tagged Trumpeter Swans spent the entire season in ice-free Barcelona Harbor. The yellow wing markers with large black lettering were easy to read - numbers 268, 371, 407, 438, 441, and 450. Frances Rew reported that these individuals had been hatched in Cambridge, Ontario in 1997 as part of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Project; they were released in June 1998 at Mountsberg Reservoir. These particular individuals often provided excellent study opportunities for serious birders to prepare for the times in the future when it will be necessary to distinguish between the Tundra and unmarked Trumpeter Swans.

The Oldsquaw is a common duck on the lower Niagara River every year. But February 1999 will long be remembered for the spectacular show of courtship behavior among the unprecedented estimate of 16,000 individuals that were believed to be present. The sounds of the Arctic as demonstrated by this species will linger a long while in the ears and memory of local birding enthusiasts.

The Niagara River between Fort Erie, Ont. and Buffalo continued to be an extraordinary area in which to observe many of the expected wintering ducks. Barcelona Harbor on the south shore of Lake Erie was also in the limelight with its Trumpeter Swans and a female Harlequin Duck that frequented its waters from January 30 through February 7. Purple Sandpiper made its first appearance for the season at Niagara Falls in time for the B.O.S. field trip on February 7.

There were relatively few February reports of the half-hardy species that were induced to remain in the area by the extremely mild November and December conditions. The most outstanding was a Hermit Thrush, first found on January 27 and remaining until at least February 26, at the Buffalo Museum of Science's Tiff Nature Preserve. White-throated Sparrows, almost unheard of in Western New York in winter prior to the "feeding station explosion", made it through the season at numerous sites. The enormous amounts of dogwood and viburnum fruits produced annually in more recent years has also helped this species survive our northern winters.

Several birds of prey of special interest were noted during February. The downtown Buffalo Peregrine Falcons were represented by a banded female at the 1998 nesting site on the Statler Building in the early part of the month and, again, on February 19. Extraordinary numbers of small mammals were probably responsible for a reported congregation of up to 42 Rough-legged Hawks at South Dayton in Cattaraugus County on February 18; this number, consisting mostly of northward returning migrants, was the largest known in the area in many, many years. More Northern Goshawks were reported than in the average February.



Other sure signs of spring were much in evidence during the month. Great Horned Owls, the earliest breeders, were reported on nests from widespread localities. A Red-tailed Hawk was building a nest on Grand Island as early as February 1. Several dozen Great Blue Herons were courting and adding sticks to old nests at Motor Island in the Niagara River as early as February 19-26. And lastly, a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was preparing a nesting hole at Fort Niagara State Park on February 27.

Springs migrants from the south took advantage of favorable weather and wind conditions. February 5 was the first day when migratory movement was evident. The American Robin should no longer be considered as the earliest harbinger of spring, especially in a winter when many, many individuals remained in the region. The robin has been replaced by the Turkey Vulture, the earliest being reported this year on February 5 north of Lewiston. This should be considered an early migrant, rather than one of the wide-ranging wintering birds from near-by Ontario. February 5 also brought the earliest migrant Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks along the south shore of Lake Erie at Sunset Bay. Other spring arrivals included several species of dabbling ducks, Killdeer, and the blackbirds - Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Also considered as northward returning migrants were the Short-eared Owls, in numbers up to six, that frequented the Dunkirk Airport grounds on February 27-28.

Richard C. Rosche

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Red-throated Loon	27	2	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	5	2	Barcelona Harbor	Watson
"	5;15	8;10	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; R&D Rosche
Horned Grebe	5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Yoerg
"	14;27	4;11	Somerset	Morgante; D'Anna
"	14	8	Shadigee	Morgante et al
D.-crested Cormorant	5;15	28;40	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; R&D Rosche
Great Blue Heron	5,26	32,24	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Hess
*Black-cr. Night-Heron	1,27	2,1	Buffalo	Yoerg
*Turkey Vulture	21F	1	Jos. Davis S.P.	B&J Horne
"	21F	1	Hamburg	Andrle
"	27	2	Kenmore	Thill

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Snow Goose	10	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Yoerg
"	26	1 bl.	Beaver Is. S.P.	R&D Rosche
Trumpeter Swan	5	6	Barcelona Harbor	Watson
Tundra Swan	5,14,20	180,192,201	Beaver Is. S.P.	Burch
"	26	10	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	R&D Rosche
*Wood Duck	28F	4	Pomfret	Mosher
American Wigeon	27	1	Chippawa, Ont.	Morgante
Northern Shoveler	14F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew
*Northern Pintail	5F;11	4;3	Pomfret	Yoerg; Mosher
"	27	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Morgante
Canvasback	20	2500	Grand Island	Burch
Redhead	14	2	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Morgante
Ring-necked Duck	14;28	1;1	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Morgante; S&T O'Donnell
"	20	42	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Galas
Lesser Scaup	14	3	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Morgante
Surf Scoter	5	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Yoerg
"	18	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Rising
White-winged Scoter	10	120	Fort Niagara S.P.	Watson, Yoerg
"	10	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Yoerg
"	18	200	Golden Hill S.P.	Rising
Black Scoter	5	1	Silver Creek	Watson
Oldsquaw	6	1000	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
"	10	2000	Fort Niagara S.P.	Watson, Yoerg
"	10	8	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Yoerg
Hooded Merganser	15	10	Dunkirk Harbor	R&D Rosche
Ruddy Duck	19	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Bald Eagle	17	3 ad.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rew, Horbett
"	17	1 ad.	Somerset	Rew, Horbett
Northern Harrier	21	6	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
*Northern Goshawk	6	1	Porter	S. O'Donnell
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	1	Zoar Valley	R&D Rosche
"	26F	1	Grand Island	R&D Rosche
Rough-legged Hawk	7	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Davis
"	14	1	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15	6	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	18	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Rising
"	20	1	Pike	R&D Rosche
Merlin	1-24	1-2	Buffalo (UB)	Yoerg
"	3	1	Buffalo (UB)	Watson
"	7,12,19,26	2	Buffalo (UB)	Suggs
"	9	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Benham
Peregrine Falcon	1,16,19,26	1,1,2,1	Statler Bldg., Bflo.	Burch
*Ruffed Grouse	27	1	Hunter's Creek	Davis
American Coot	5;15	6;12	Barcelona Harbor	Watson; R&D Rosche



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
American Coot	5;15	55;75	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; R&D Rosche
"	6	5	Fort Niagara S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	26	1	Grand Island	R&D Rosche
*Killdeer	20F	1	Fredonia	Moshers
"	20F	1	Eden	Noville
*Purple Sandpiper	7	1	Niagara Falls	Yoerg, Schlacter
Little Gull	6;21	20;15	Lewiston	Morgante; D'Anna
"	7,28	10,20	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg, Schlacter
* <u>Black-headed Gull</u>	7	1	Queenston, Ont.	Seamans (BOS)
"	7	1	Queenston, Ont.	Klick
Iceland Gull	6	2	Queenston, Ont.	Morgante
"	7	2	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	10	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Yoerg
"	10	2	Niagara Falls	Yoerg
"	27	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Lesser Black-b. Gull	21	1	Lewiston	Potter, D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	3	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Rew, Horbett
"	7	3	Niagara Falls	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	14	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	15	1	Dunkirk Harbor	R&D Rosche
"	16	1	Point Gratiot	Mosher
"	27	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Morgante
"	28	1	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
*Black-leg. Kittiwake	<u>7</u>	1	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg
*Short-eared Owl	27	6	Sheridan	Moshers, Budniewskis
Red-headed Wdpkr.	6	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Shrike	1	1	Porter	S. O'Donnell
"	2	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	6	1	Jos. Davis S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	14	1	Pike	Fox
"	14;27	1;1	Somerset	Yoerg; D'Anna
"	28	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	1	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
Carolina Wren	26	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
Eastern Bluebird	1	14	Porter	S. O'Donnell
"	3	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	6,8,9	4,8,11	Jos. Davis S.P.	B&J Horne
"	18	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Rising
"	20	1	Queenston, Ont.	Watson, Galas
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	1	1	Alden	Rising
"	1	1	Alden	Watson
Northern Mockingbird	14	1	South Park, Bflo.	Andrle
Yellow-r. Warbler	14	3	Bond Lake	Yoerg, Henderson
Eastern Towhee	1-28	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Snow Bunting	12	3	Jos. Davis S.P.	B&J Horne
Red-w. Blackbird	1-28	20 max.	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	1	4	Tonawanda	Watson
"	7,14F	2,38	South Park, Bflo.	Andrle
"	7	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Davis
"	15	10	Lancaster	Morgante
Rusty Blackbird	20F	4	Arcade	R&D Rosche
"	21	1	Beaver Meadow N.C.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Common Grackle	1-19	7 max.	Tonawanda	Watson
"	13F	1	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	14	1	Buffalo	D. Rosche
Brown-headed Cowbird	1-19	60 max.	Tonawanda	Watson
"	13F	7	Stockton(f)	Mosher, Farver
"	13F	1	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	14	25	Pike	Fox
"	20	37	Kenmore(f)	Thill
"	28	120	Tonawanda	Hess

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	103
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue .....	13
Total for year .....	116

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**Field Trip Along Niagara River, February 7, 1999**

The following people turned out on an overcast, cool morning to see what birds might be found along the Niagara River: Gail Seamans (leader), Anne Vogt, Brendan Klick, Ed Fuchs, Vicki Onorato, Don Norfolk, Alice Norfolk, Bill Burch, Karen Michel, Kathy Harper, Tom Harper, Lynn Landon, Terry Yonker, Deborah Nailos, Barbara Jean, and Ed Berst. We met Peter Yoerg along the way who helped us locate birds that he had seen. Peter also saw two interesting birds that we missed - a Purple Sandpiper and a Black-legged Kittiwake.

The species and number recorded: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron 7, Tundra Swan >90, Canada Goose >200, American Black Duck >8, Mallard >300, American Wigeon, Canvasback >30, Redhead >40, Ring-necked Duck >6, Greater Scaup >500, Oldsquaw >300, White-winged Scoter >6, Common Goldeneye >200, Bufflehead >25, Common Merganser >300, Red-breasted Merganser >400, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Little Gull >8, Black-headed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull >400, Ring-billed Gull >200, Herring Gull >200, Iceland Gull 3, Glaucous Gull 3, Great Black-backed Gull >25, Rock Dove >200, Mourning Dove >30, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow >20, Black-capped Chickadee >6, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, European Starling >100, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird 6, House Finch >4, American Goldfinch >6, and House Sparrow >6.

On the way home, in the Town of Pembroke, Genesee County, I saw an American Kestrel and a light-phase Rough-legged Hawk. I was glad to get home just as the snow started and hope that everyone else arrived safely too.

Gail Seamans



## Notes on a Probable Greater Scaup x Ring-necked Duck Hybrid

On February 16, 1999 while looking over the rafts of diving ducks on the west branch of the Niagara River adjacent to Beaver Island State Park, Dorothy Rosche noticed a strange looking individual among the Greater Scaup and Canvasback flocks. The specific location would best be described as at the end of West Oakfield Road where there is a circle in which to turn a vehicle around. It was a bright sunny day and the sun was directly behind us as we looked to the west around 0930 hours. The bird was swimming and diving. Two 20 power B & L Balscopes were used during the 15 minutes of observation.

This individual was relatively easy to pick out from the large number of ducks with which it was associated because it was obviously a male with one very obvious female characteristic - a well-defined whitish patch at the base of the bill, as in a female scaup. The head profile was a very rounded one, most typical of a Greater Scaup, rather than that of a Lesser Scaup or Ring-necked Duck. Very definite green iridescence was noted on the head. The bill was a bright chalky blue with well-defined white rings as in the Ring-necked Duck. The back was very dark black as in the Ring-necked Duck. The sides of the bird were very uniformly white and lacked the white thumb-mark between the pale of the sides and the dark of the breast as found in the Ring-necked Duck. I could see no dark vermiculations anywhere on the back or sides of the bird.

Dabbling ducks have for many years been hybridizing with each other, particularly the Mallard and its close relatives, the American Black Duck and "Mexican Duck". Hybrids among the diving ducks are much less commonly discovered, although the various reports from throughout North America indicate a more recent trend toward hybridization in this group also. We once carefully studied a hybrid male Redhead X Ring-necked Duck on a small plains pond in central South Dakota many years ago. Our February 16, 1999 observation on the Niagara River was only our second observation of a hybrid diving duck. Local field observers should be aware of the possibility of this occurring in the future. The Niagara River in winter affords an excellent opportunity to discover hybrid diving ducks. While they are not listed among the "Noteworthy Records" in *The Prothonotary*, observers are encouraged to describe their observations in the format of a short article for the same publication.

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## A Probable Hybrid of *Larus hyperboreus* and *Larus argentatus* on the Niagara River

This December, at the Sir Adam Beck Generating Station, an interesting gull was pointed out to me. In flight, the gull struck me as a very large adult Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). It approached the size of a Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*), having a broad-winged and heavy-chested appearance similar to that of a Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*). The most striking feature of the bird was the wingtip pattern, which resembled a Thayer's Gull. There was less black in the primaries than in our race of Herring Gull, *L. argentatus smithsonianus*, with conspicuously large white mirrors on P1 and P2, the outer primaries, and smaller mirrors on P3 through P5. The bird was pale mantled, slightly paler than an adult *smithsonianus*. The irides were pale yellow, unlike Thayer's Gull. Since the bird was in flight, the color of the legs could not be discerned. These observations led me and several other observers to suggest a Glaucous Gull - Herring Gull hybrid, also known as "Nelson's Gull".



"Nelson's Gull" has been occasionally reported before on the Niagara River. A bird that I examined in the Buffalo Museum of Science, which was collected on the river, showed traits of this hybrid and was discussed by Andrle (1980). However, written verification reports have never been successfully documented in the B.O.S. study area. Due to the complexity of gull identification, the B.O.S. Statisticians remain particularly cautious about accepting reports of hybrid gulls without specimens.

In Dwight's (1925) discussion of Nelson's Gull, a specimen collected in Alaska is believed to be a hybrid between Glaucous Gull and the Siberian race of Herring Gull, *L. a. vegae*. *L. a. vegae* is noticeably darker mantled than *smithsonianus*. However, the bird I observed had a very light mantle and was very similar to the description of an adult "Nelson's Gull" collected in California (Jehl 1971). Harrison (1986) reports that hybridization of Glaucous and Herring Gulls occurs extensively in Iceland. There, the subspecies of Herring Gull which occur are the Northern European race, *L. a. argenteus* and possibly the Scandiavian race, *L. a. argentatus*. *L. a. argenteus* is the palest of the Herring Gull races, with *argentatus* averaging darker mantled and larger. I believe the bird which I observed on the Niagara River was a hybrid between Glaucous Gull and one of the three pale-mantled races of Herring Gull: *smithsonianus*, *argenteus*, or *argentatus*. According to Harrison, Glaucous Gull hybridizes with several other gull species, but these hybrids would not exhibit the field characteristics shown by the bird in question. One possible form which cannot be easily ruled out is Glaucous Gull X Thayer's Gull, although the occurrence of this hybrid is unknown. Presumably it would be smaller, darker mantled and have dark irides (Jehl 1971).

The origins of the gull observed will likely remain undetermined. It is probably a hybrid of a Glaucous Gull and Herring Gull, but other potential hybrids cannot be ruled out. Identification of hybrid gulls remains problematic. However, observers should be aware that hybrid gulls, causing identification problems, can and do occur on the Niagara River, and observers should attempt to document possible hybrid gulls as best they can, preferably with photographs. I would like to acknowledge the invaluable help of Willie D'Anna, Arthur Clark, and Dr. Robert Andrle in writing this paper.

Brendan Klick

#### Literature cited:

- Andrle, R. F. 1980. Three more probable hybrids of *Larus hyperboreus* and *L. argentatus*. *Wilson Bulletin* 92: 389-393.
- Dunn, J. L., L. Rosche, and J.W. Vanderpoel. 1997. The large gulls of North America. Advanced Birding Video Series.
- Dwight, J. 1925. The gulls (Laridae) of the world; their plumages, moults, variations, relationships, and distribution. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 52:63-402.
- Grant, P.J. 1986. Gulls: a guide to identification. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Calton, England: T. & A. D. Poyser.
- Harrison, P. 1985. Seabirds: an identification guide. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Jehl, J. R. 1971. A hybrid Glaucous X Herring Gull from San Diego. *California Birds* 2: 27-32.

### Buffalo's Peregrines Are Viewed On Video Monitor

A video camera has been installed in the nesting box of the Peregrine Falcons atop the Statler Towers building in downtown Buffalo, NY. A coaxial cable carries the nest scene to a television monitor in the window of the US Airways office at ground level on Genesee Street.

This was a joint effort of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Buffalo Ornithological Society, and was directed by Mark Kandel of the DEC. The BOS was instrumental in being able to quickly



provide \$1745 from the Special Projects Fund so that the camera and cable could be installed for this year's nesting.

The eggs were laid between March 18 and 24, a month earlier than we expected. This caught us by surprise and as a result, the drilling of the access hole and camera mounting on March 22 were done while the female(?) persisted in remaining on the eggs.

The nest box activity should pick up around April 18 as the four eggs begin to hatch. Feeding of the young will make for interesting viewing. Then, in late May the nearly full-sized birds will be wing-flapping, in preparation for first flights around June 2-7.

A most-distressing event took place on Monday morning, April 5. A dead female Peregrine was found on the roof of the five-story Mahoney Office Building across the street from the Statler. Leg band numbers identified it as the female which had nested on the City Hall in 1996 and 1997 and on the Statler in 1998,

The obvious conclusion was that the female of the nest box was lost and the male was admired for struggling to keep the eggs warm. On Tuesday morning the DEC brought news channels 2 and 4 to the scene. Removing the eggs for incubation was mentioned as a possibility on the noon newscast. Loss of the nest and a useless video installation passed through our minds. Then by mid-afternoon Tuesday, the true series of events was becoming apparent when this year's occupants, a male and a female, were seen together at the nest. (Distressed observers had seen no exchange and had convinced themselves that the bird on the nest was always the small male). This female certainly had laid the eggs inasmuch as the dead female lacked the brood patch of an incubating female.

It appears that the 1998 female had arrived late at the nest and tried to reclaim it from the occupants, a repeat of her action in 1998 when she ousted the Toledo, Ohio female from the box. A struggle ensued again this year, ending with a puncture wound on the back of the skull of the victim, probably from a talon. In retrospect, if the carcass had not been found, we would have been unaware of a struggle, and that a strange pair was in the box.

Mark Kandel has been able to see the band colors of the new pair but not the numbers. The female, and perhaps the male, appear to be of Canadian origin, as was the previous female.

Bill Burch

### **Summary of Hotline and Dial-a-Bird Activity – February 1999**

Reports to Dial-a-Bird during February were a mix of winter visitors and the earliest spring migrants. Once again, there were no Hotline reports - it would seem that Dial-a-Bird updates and Internet communications have outdated the telephone call network. If someone is not able to access the touch tone feature of the update or the Internet, perhaps a revised call list should be arranged so that no one is left out.

The report that generated the most interest during February was the continuing visit of a Black-headed Gull at the Queenston boat launch. There seemed to be a rather low success rate at finding this individual. There were similar mixed results reported concerning a female Harlequin Duck residing in Barcelona Harbor. The discovery of two Merlins on the University of Buffalo Main Street Campus improved the odds of seeing at least one of these falcons. There was also a solid report of a Merlin wintering in the Town of Tonawanda along the abandoned railroad tracks south of Sheridan Drive.

It is difficult to say "spring migrants" in February but when Turkey Vultures, Killdeer, American Pipits, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Common Grackles start to appear, the seasons are changing.

David F. Suggs



Buffalo Ornithological Society Region Christmas Counts: 1998

	Beaver		Chstnt	Dunk	James	Niagara	Oak	Port	St.	St.		N	
	Mdw	Buffalo	Ridge	Fred	town	Falls	Orchard	Colb	Scio	Bona	Cath	TOT	C
Count Date	Dec 26	Dec/20	Jan/3	Jan/1	Dec/20	Dec/27	Dec/27	Jan/3	Dec/19	Dec 19	Dec/20		
Red-throated Loon						14					17	31	2
Common Loon		2			4	13					8	27	4
Pied-billed Grebe		2		1	2					1		6	4
Horned Grebe		1		1	2	2					1	7	5
Northern Gannet						1						1	1
Double-cr. Cormorant		8		4		33		1			31	77	5
Great Blue Heron		64	3		18	15	10		6	1	2	119	8
Turkey Vulture									2			2	1
Greater W-f Goose							11					11	1
Snow Goose						1	5					6	2
Canada Goose	28	4198	21	847	2917	2350	11893	334	23	323	808	23742	11
Mute Swan											4	4	1
Tundra Swan		73			38		11					122	3
Wood Duck		1		1	6	1	1				2	12	6
Gadwall		53		1	59	10	37				7	167	6
American Wigeon		17			8	32						57	3
American Black Duck		88	2	1	37	120	35	18	26	50	33	410	10
Mallard	52	3693	307	140	1032	649	2226	241	20	308	371	9039	11
Northern Shoveler					25							25	1
Northern Pintail					11	6	1609					1626	3
Green-winged Teal		8			6					3		17	3
Canvasback		1205		2	3	4						1214	4
Redhead		6		1	1	1						9	4
Ring-necked Duck					13							13	1
Greater Scaup		6		3	2	429		43			28	511	6
Lesser Scaup						65		2				67	2
scaup species		704				80					32	816	3
Surf Scoter					1							1	1
White-winged Scoter		3				115		2			60	180	4
Black Scoter						1						1	1
Oldsquaw		2				808					900	1710	3
Bufflehead		126	5	130	125	113		61			64	624	7
Common Goldeneye		1880	29	14	327	1048		20			89	3407	7
Hooded Merganser		47		4	1609	9				1	40	1710	6
Common Merganser		83		466	2215	646		116		67	43	3636	7



## **BOS MEETINGS**

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-4311).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

June 9. Wednesday. BOS picnic at Tifft Nature Preserve Visitor Center, last meeting of the season. Bring your food and eat at 6:00 p.m., indoors if cold or rainy.

## **1999 Vaughan Lecture**

**Dr. Peter Sherrington**  
**"Golden Eagle Gold Rush"**  
Wednesday, April 28, 1999  
7:30 P.M.

Since 1992, Dr. Peter Sherrington and hundreds of volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation have been studying a population of Golden Eagles as they migrate through the Rocky Mountains west of Calgary, Alberta. Over 44,500 Golden Eagles have been counted as they move north to their arctic breeding territories in the spring and as they return to their wintering range on the western Great Plains. Learn about the significance of this amazing biannual phenomenon.

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## **FIELD TRIPS**

May 1, 8, 15, 22: Saturdays at Delaware Park - Buffalo Audubon Society bird walks. These are half-day walks, led by BOS members. Meet at 8:00 a.m. on Rumsey Road at Windsor. (Rumsey, off of Delaware Ave., is the south boundary of Delaware Park.)

May 2: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Brendan Klick (839-1792).

May 8: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve - Buffalo Audubon Society bird walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. Leader: Ed Ratajczak. We suggest confirming attendance by calling Mary Hughes at 636-1719.

- May 8: Saturday. Presque Isle State Park at Erie, PA for a day of warbler watching. Coordinated by Jay Wopper. Phone Jay for details at 632-8615.
- May 16: Sunday. BOS May Bird Court. Compiler: Jim Landau (941-3869).
- May 23: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you wish to meet on the Canadian side, phone the leader.
- June 4: Friday. Whip-poor-will trip and Chinese dinner. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will eat at the Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colborne, Ont. This is at 182 West Street, on the west bank of the Welland Canal. Then we go to Wilson Road, which is 4 miles west of town. Reservations are appreciated. Call Bill Burch (773-3690).
- June 9. Wednesday. BOS picnic at Tifft Nature Preserve Visitor Center, last meeting of the season. Bring your food and eat at 6:00 p.m., indoors if cold or rainy.
- Sept. 17-19 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at the Riverview Holiday Inn in Elmira, NY, hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. The Federation's Web Page can be found at: <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

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For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mr. Michael Morgante, 14 Meadow Lea, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: ChasHal@AOL.com

### 1998 Region Christmas Bird Counts

Jim Landau has compiled the results of various 1998 Christmas Bird Counts within the BOS study area. His efforts are printed in the following pages for your information.



Buffalo Ornithological Society Region Christmas Counts: 1998

	Beaver		Chstnt	Dunk	James	Niagara	Oak	Port		St.	St.		N
	Midw	Buffalo	Ridge	Fred	town	Falls	Orchard	Colb	Scio	Bona	Cath	TOT	C
Count Date	Dec 26	Dec/20	Jan/3	Jan/1	Dec/20	Dec/27	Dec/27	Jan/3	Dec/19	Dec 19	Dec/20		
Red-br. Merganser		52		17		411		37			187	704	5
Ruddy Duck					1	1						2	2
<i>duck species</i>						146					4	150	2
Bald Eagle					1		2			1		4	3
Northern Harrier	2	1		1	2	1	12	4				23	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	4	6	3	7	13	2	1		2	4	43	10
Cooper's Hawk	5	16	2		8	6	4	2	1	1	3	48	10
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>									1			1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk					2							2	1
Red-tailed Hawk	49	98	17	15	94	73	79	19	23	21	85	573	11
Rough-legged Hawk	2			4	7	1	9	1	3			27	7
American Kestrel	5	32	1	3	17	44	17	17	4	3	39	182	11
Ring-necked Pheasant	5		2		9	7	6				4	33	6
Ruffed Grouse	2				3			3	4	4		16	5
Wild Turkey	110		26	75	48	20	33		47	26	8	393	9
American Coot		3		80	1872	7					2	1964	5
Killdeer					1	4						5	2
<b>Common Snipe</b>					1	2						1	1
Little Gull												2	1
Bonaparte's Gull		332		600	35	9647		10			326	10950	6
Ring-billed Gull	19	4536	50	2017	3423	12335	121	164	111	20	1825	24621	11
Herring Gull		11009	5	40	83	14322	29	165	22	12	665	26352	10
<b>Thayer's Gull</b>						2						2	1
Iceland Gull		4				5						9	2
Lesser Bl.-backed Gull		7				4					2	13	3
Glaucous Gull		1				7					1	9	3
Great Bl.-backed Gull		363	11	89	14	2089	2	80			118	2766	8
<i>gull species</i>	2					157	15					174	3
Rock Dove	269	2058	247	186	1635	1520	325	308	693	1084	744	9069	11
Mourning Dove	270	635	223	174	1028	733	1154	744	215	360	1104	6640	11
Eastern Screech-Owl	5	8			6	13	24	2		1	8	67	8
Great Horned Owl	3	4	1	3	11	11	47	2		1	3	86	10
Barred Owl					1				1	1	1	4	4
Long-eared Owl		10										10	1

**Buffalo Ornithological Society Region Christmas Counts: 1998**

	Beaver		Chstnt	Dunk	James	Niagara	Oak	Port		St.	St.		N
	Mdw	Buffalo	Ridge	Fred	town	Falls	Orchard	Colb	Scio	Bona	Cath	TOT	C
Count Date	Dec 26	Dec/20	Jan/3	Jan/1	Dec/20	Dec/27	Dec/27	Jan/3	Dec/19	Dec 19	Dec/20		
Short-eared Owl	2					1						3	2
N. Saw-whet Owl							1					1	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	6	1		2	9		1	1	2	6	29	9
Red-head. Woodpecker						4						4	1
Red-bell. Woodpecker	8	12	12	5	3	25	39	6	1	1	7	119	11
Yell.-bell. Sapsucker				1								1	1
Downy Woodpecker	48	115	63	27	73	112	93	33	11	17	95	687	11
Hairy Woodpecker	17	11	18	4	14	20	23	1	7	8	13	136	11
Northern Flicker	1	28	2		4	62	20	4			22	143	8
Pileated Woodpecker	5		6	1	7		10		1	1		31	7
Northern Shrike	4	1	1		4	4	5	2	1		4	26	9
Blue Jay	306	286	189	103	294	300	167	149	83	86	287	2250	11
American Crow	1224	961	353	307	1158	1288	754	186	329	587	6396	13543	11
<b>Common Raven</b>									6	8		14	2
Horned Lark	180		5	5	6	1	478	347				1022	7
Bl.-capped Chickadee	582	565	487	111	556	499	378	182	212	290	545	4407	11
Tufted Titmouse	4	43	30	8	24	10	12	5	6	10	11	163	11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	2	17	4	7	5			2	3	8	55	9
Wh.-breasted Nuthatch	28	52	40	9	57	43	45	14	31	32	23	374	11
Brown Creeper	2	17	12		7	1	8	1	2	1	4	55	10
Carolina Wren			1	1	3	14		5		2	9	35	7
Winter Wren		3				10					1	14	3
Golden-cr. Kinglet	20	52	8		15	32	20	10	13	54	25	249	10
<b>Ruby-cr. Kinglet</b>		1			1	1				2		5	4
Eastern Bluebird		33			11	52	18				45	159	5
Hermit Thrush				1							1	2	2
American Robin	3	439	68	490	70	2065	245	2	9	6	282	3679	11
Northern Mockingbird		8				70	1	7			80	166	5
Brown Thrasher				1								1	1
European Starling	1556	17760	1083	794	3296	68925	6501	1482	447	1677	5968	109489	11
Cedar Waxwing	26	36	72	9	77	143	164		8		42	577	9
Yellow-rump. Warbler		30				4	15	1				50	4



# Buffalo Ornithological Society Region Christmas Counts: 1998

	Beaver		Chstnt	Dunk	James	Niagara	Oak	Port		St.	St.		N
	Mdw	Buffalo	Ridge	Fred	town	Falls	Orchard	Colb		Bona	Cath	TOT	C
Count Date	Dec 26	Dec/20	Jan/3	Jan/1	Dec/20	Dec/27	Dec/27	Jan/3	Dec/19	Dec 19	Dec/20		
Prairie Warbler		1										1	1
Eastern Towhec				1								1	1
Am. Tree Sparrow	575	196	214	192	168	852	595	457	30	161	249	3689	11
Chipping Sparrow										9		9	1
Song Sparrow	9	16	16	10	6	27	29	12		7	12	144	10
Swamp Sparrow	1	6				4	3	1				15	5
White-thr. Sparrow	6	22	4	38	14	70	25	10	6	9	21	225	11
White-cr. Sparrow		6		7		42	1	2			4	62	6
Dark-eyed Junco	515	182	359	306	383	672	236	414	107	170	568	3912	11
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco											1	1	1
Lapland Longspur								12				12	1
Snow Bunting	182		10	1	1	18	266	190			59	727	8
Northern Cardinal	71	131	130	71	109	317	146	157	25	24	244	1425	11
Red-winged Blackbird		50	2	1	5	10	186	10				264	7
meadowlark species								3				3	1
Rusty Blackbird		22			1	17		1		5		46	5
Common Grackle	1	1				11	1		22	26		62	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	23	5	5	2	650	86	127	6		2	907	10
Purple Finch			8		1				2			11	3
House Finch	190	416	184	318	249	566	268	405	45	11	691	3343	11
Red Crossbill						1						1	1
Common Redpoll			50									50	1
Pine Siskin			3			1						4	2
American Goldfinch	116	131	107	23	108	228	198	46	24	31	260	1272	11
House Sparrow	402	2100	357	233	630	2481	750	823	115	162	2126	10179	11
												0	0
												0	0
												0	0
												0	0
												0	0
												0	0
Total Species	48	78	52	61	82	93	61	60	45	51	71	122	
Total Individuals	6922	55207	4875	8010	24136	127814	29506	7505	2754	5693	25784	298175	
Number of observers	21	38	17	17	30	36	17	16	18	17	62	289	







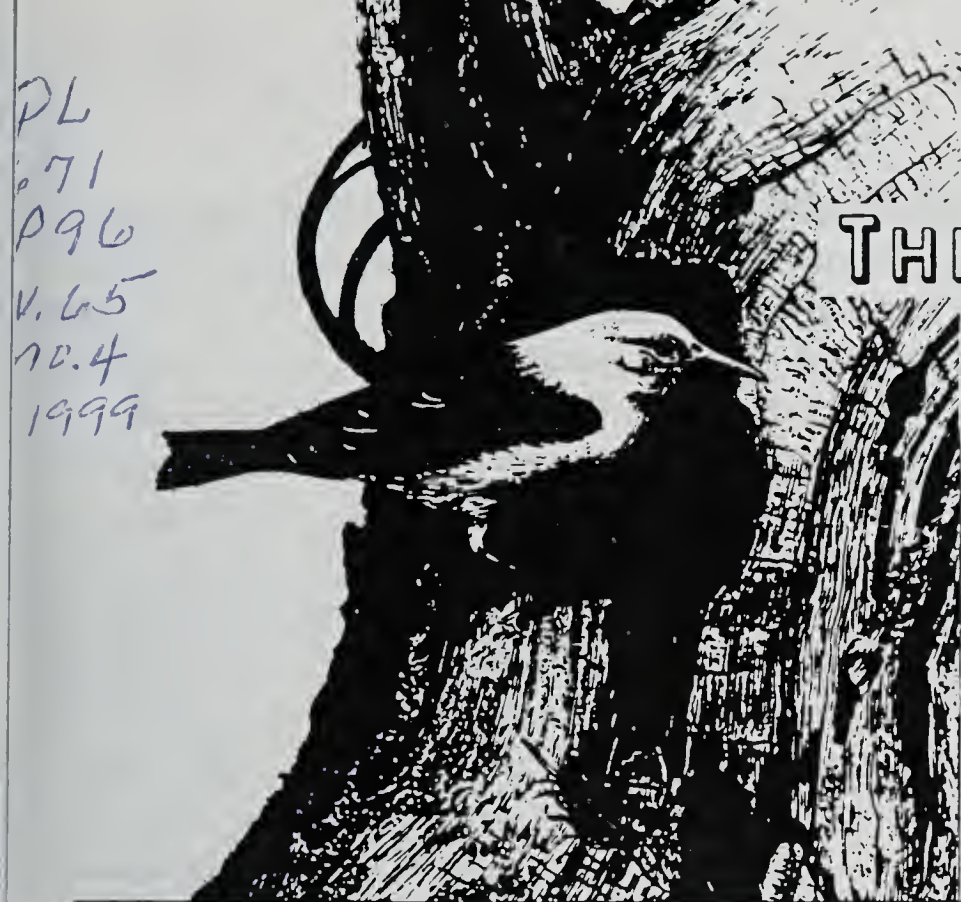
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April, 1999

Number 4

## THE MONTH: March, 1999

March roared into Western New York like the proverbial lion and left like a lamb! After an absence of about a month and a half, winter returned during the first week of March with plenty of snow and the coldest weather since early January. A major storm moved into New York on March 4, burying areas to our east such as Rochester with record snowfall. The Buffalo area was on the western fringe of this system. On March 6 another storm moved into the region dropping 8-10 inches of snow across the metropolitan area. The remaining three weeks were unusually calm and placid for March, save for a day-long final snowstorm on March 22 that dumped several inches over the higher terrain south of Buffalo. The month culminated in a warm and windy last day.

The average temperature of 31.0°F. was about three degrees colder than normal. This deficiency was totally due to the chill of the first two weeks that averaged 7° F. below normal. Conversely, the final three weeks averaged 3°F. warmer than normal. The maximum temperature for the month was a very pleasant 68°F. on the last day. No temperature records were set. The 31.0° March average exactly equaled the February average. This was only the seventh time this century that March failed to be warmer than February. March is usually 9.3°F. warmer!

Precipitation for March was a slightly below normal 2.42 inches. This total was deceiving, however, as nearly all of it fell during the period of March 3-6. In fact, there was only one precipitation event during the last 25 days, a meager 0.28 inches on March 22. There were two long dry spells, 14 days from March 7 through 20, and the final nine days of the month. Snowfall was above normal at 15.8 inches, falling during the three weather events previously noted. The 9.4 inches on March 6 was a new maximum for that date.

Sunshine was prevalent during March with 55% of the possible received, a full ten points higher than normal. Lake Erie had only limited ice this past winter. Therefore, the ice boom across the entrance to the Niagara River was removed during the final week of March, allowing the lake temperature to rise to 37°F. by month's end. The "ice out" date was about three weeks early this year. Many inland water bodies, however, remained frozen or nearly so at the end of the month. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet.)



It was a long wait for the arrival of spring for most field observers. The snow cover from mid to late March, the cold temperatures, and the unfavorable winds for the most part, postponed much spring bird activity until the last few days of the month. The lack of early arrival dates for northbound migrants in the records below reflects the retarded season. However, a number of items of special interest can be gleaned from these records, as well as from the wealth of material that appears daily on the Internet and weekly on Dial-a-Bird.

Among the water birds, Norma Dittiger's report of up to three Black-crowned Night-Herons roosting in some pine trees in her Riverside (northwestern Buffalo) yard for the past three to four months, was intriguing. The report of 72 Snow Geese in Chautauqua County at Pomfret appeared to be an unusually high count for that section of the B.O.S. territory. Tundra Swans were again much in the limelight as spring transients began to arrive. Especially interesting was an Internet report of a "Bewick's Swan", the European form of the Tundra Swan, that was studied by David Neveu and Richard Miga on March 5 in the Town of Pomfret, Chautauqua County. It is difficult to know whether individuals such as this represent escaped feral birds or true vagrants from distant places. Some 7030 Oldsquaws were estimated on March 8 by Gordon Bellerby as they flew past the mouth of the Niagara River at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Lastly, an adult male and three separate female King Eiders were noted on Lake Ontario at Vineland, Ontario, near the northwestern boundary of the B.O.S. territory. The male and some of the females were thought to possibly be the same individuals that were being reported for most of the winter in the Fruitland, Ontario area.

The two long established hawk-watch sites on the south shore of Lake Erie at Ripley, Chautauqua Co. and Hamburg, Erie Co. were active during the month. Reports from both are rather fragmentary at this writing, but a few, mostly from the Internet, are interesting. Some 163 Red-shouldered Hawks and 196 Red-tailed Hawks flew past the Ripley site on March 21. Two Golden Eagles were noted over Hamburg on March 21, and another was at the Ripley site on March 24. While no longer considered birds of prey by systematic ornithologists, the Turkey Vulture numbers reported below at the Hamburg site and the 600 at the Ripley site on March 21, were indicative of the increasing push of this adaptable bird into the far reaches of the north country.

Numerous Northern Goshawks were reported, both from the hawk-watch sites and elsewhere. After being scarce throughout the winter, Rough-legged Hawk migrants appeared in widely scattered localities. The Internet reported an astonishing 86 individuals, including 29 dark morphs, on March 25 in the South Dayton area of Cattaraugus County, presumably in the same areas where a large number were reported during February. One of the two Merlins that spent the entire winter on and about the Buffalo campus of SUNYAB, was last noted as late as March 26.

Nesting birds of prey drew the attention of both birders and the general public. Equipment purchased by the Buffalo Ornithological Society enabled the recording of events at the Peregrine Falcon aerie located on the Statler building in downtown Buffalo, where four eggs were being incubated at month's end. A monitor placed in a sidewalk window of the US Airways office in the same building was drawing attention from MANY downtown Buffalo walkers and workers. Also very popular was a Bald Eagle nest at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, where a monitor in the Visitor Center showed two eggs in that nest at month's end. Another active Bald Eagle nest was reported on Dial-a-Bird from the Allegheny Reservoir, 2.6 miles south of exit 17 of the Southern Tier Expressway, in Cattaraugus County. In the same region, three pairs of Ospreys were at nests at Willow Bay, Bone Run, and at exit 18 on Route 280.

About 4000 Bonaparte's Gulls were thought to be frequenting the Lower Niagara River in the Lewiston-Queenston area during the last half of the month. With them 52 Little Gulls were noted on March 17, and an amazing 85 were noted on March 19 as they flew past Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on their way out of the river. What was thought to be the same Black-headed Gull that was first found in late January, continued to be present off and on during March.

There were two interesting Short-eared Owl concentrations, perhaps of spring migrants, near the airport at



Dunkirk and in the Town of Shelby. A number of Common Ravens were reported from southern tier localities, including one noted scavenging for dead fish on the shore of Lake Erie at Barcelona Harbor on March 21.

Richard C. Rosche

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS


Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	27	2	Yates	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	12	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Horned Grebe	20	70	Vineland, Ont.	Morgante
"	27	12	Shadigee	Morgante, D'Anna
"	27	4	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
*Red-necked Grebe	20F	2	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
"	20F	3	Shadigee	D'Anna(BOS)
D.-crested Cormorant	12	11	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1-15	1	Buffalo (Riverside)	Dittiger
"	26	2	Whirlpool S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Turkey Vulture	28,29,31	178,560,250	Hamburg	Andrle et al
Snow Goose	19F	72	Pomfret	Rew, Walker, Moshers
"	20,27	2,1	Carlton	D'Anna et al
"	20,27	2,1	Yates	D'Anna et al
Tundra Swan	7;20;24	33;129;171	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg; Watson; McKale
"	11,18	153,165	Beaver Is. S.P.	Burch
"	18	128	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Burch
"	21	240	Oak Orchard & vicinity	Seamans, Vogt
"	21	135	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	96	Ripley	Watson
Wood Duck	8	1	Cassadaga	Rew, Horbett
"	12	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
*Blue-winged Teal	19F	2	Pomfret	Rew, Walker
"	27	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Northern Shoveler	20F	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	26	24	Iroquois N.W.R.	Hess

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Northern Pintail	19	30	Pomfret	Moshers
"	20	32	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	20	25	Yates & Carlton	D'Anna(BOS)
*Green-winged Teal	19F	1	Pomfret	Rew, Walker
"	20	1	Freedom	Fox
"	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	20	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	20	2	Carlton	D'Anna(BOS)
"	20	1	Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
Canvasback	7	1900	Beaver Is. S.P.	Burch
"	28	14	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Redhead	27	7	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	28	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Ring-necked Duck	20;26	51;180	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson; Hess
"	21	100	Oak Orchard & vicin.	Seamans
"	27	191	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Lesser Scaup	20;27	5;12	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Seamans
*King Eider	20	4	Vineland, Ont.	Morgante
Surf Scoter	20	1	Somerset	Klick
"	27	1	Shadigee	Morgante, D'Anna
Hooded Merganser	19	30	Silver Creek	Rew, Walker
"	25	170	Pomfret	Mosher
"	27	38	Batavia WWTP	Seamans, Vogt
Ruddy Duck	20F	1	Vineland, Ont.	Morgante
"	20F;27	6;33	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Seamans, Vogt
"	25	2	Dunkirk	Mosher
"	27	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	27	2	Pomfret	Mosher
Bald Eagle	7	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	2	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
"	12	1	Westfield	Watson
"	17;29	2 imm.;1	Hamburg	Andrle; Watson
"	20	1 imm.	Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
"	26	2 @nest	Iroquois N.W.R.	Hess
Northern Goshawk	4	1	Eggertsville	McKale
Red-shouldered Hawk	20;29	24;29	Hamburg	Rew; Watson et al
"	21	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson
Rough-legged Hawk	7-28	8 other rpts	throughout WNY	Fox, Junkin, var. others
"	8	14	South Dayton	Rew, Horbett
"	20	10	Yates & Carlton	D'Anna(BOS)
"	21	9	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Merlin	7,23,25,26	1	Buffalo (UB Campus)	Yoerg
"	26	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Peregrine Falcon	3,18,30	2,2,2	Buffalo (Statler)	Burch



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
American Coot	12	80	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
*Greater Yellowlegs	30F	1	Villanova	Neveu
*Common Snipe	21F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Davis
"	28	2	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	4	Villanova	Neveu
American Woodcock	17F	3	Jos. Davis S.P.	S. O'Donnell
"	24	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Little Gull	17,22	52,45	Lewiston	S. O'Donnell
"	19,29	85,12	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	29	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Bonaparte's Gull	19,29	3635,4240	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	20	2	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Morgante
"	20	2	Niagara Falls	Morgante
Lesser Black-b. Gull	20	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante
Glaucous Gull	28	4	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
*Long-eared Owl	24	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
"	28	4	Stevensville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-eared Owl	8;12;26	5;4;6	Sheridan	Rew; Watson; Neveu
"	12	1	Royalton	S&T O'Donnell
"	12,28	5,9	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell et al
"	28	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Nor. Saw-whet Owl	21	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
*Eastern Phoebe	17F	1	Lewiston	S. O'Donnell
"	21	1	Machias 	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Shrike	5,8,23	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	8	1	Sheridan	Rew, Horbett
"	10	1	Hartland	Cooper, Farrell
"	13	1	Orangeville	Fox
"	14	1	Hamburg	Rew
"	28	1	Pike	Fox
Common Raven	21	2	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Purple Martin	31F	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
*Tree Swallow	21F	2	Hamburg	Morgante, Holmes
"	21F	203	Iroquois N.W.R.	Seamans, Vogt
"	21F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	21F	1	Lewiston	D'Anna
Red-br. Nuthatch	29,31	1,2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
Carolina Wren	20	1	Queenston, Ont.	Morgante
"	20	1	Fredonia	Mosher
"	26	1	Snyder	Klick
Winter Wren	28F	1	Deer Lick Sanctuary	Davis
Golden-cr. Kinglet	20	4	Alfred	Brooks
*Hermit Thrush	21F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Davis
*American Pipit	28F	1	Buffalo	Morgante

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*American Pipit	28F	24	Hamburg	Andrle et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	28	1	West Barre	Klick
Eastern Towhee	1-22	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
*Fox Sparrow	21F,31	1,2	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick
"	22,23	1,2	Pomfret(f)	Moshers
"	22,24	1,1	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
Lapland Longspur	27	2	Yates	Morgante
Snow Bunting	10	25	Somerset	Cooper, Farrell
"	13	100	Wyoming County	Fox
"	27	2	Yates	Morgante, D'Anna
Northern Cardinal	6	22	Wheatfield(f)	D'Anna, Potter
*Eastern Meadowlark	21F	3	Java	D&S Junkin
"	21F	2	Tillman W.M.A.	Davis
Rusty Blackbird	21	3	Tillman W.M.A.	Davis
Purple Finch	6	3	Eggertsville(f)	McKale
"	6-31	2 max.	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick
"	22-31	3	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	27,31	1,2	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
"	29	1	Scio	Neveu
*Red Crossbill	21	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	116
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue .....	16
Total for year .....	132

**Summary of Hotline and Dial-a-Bird Activity – March 1999**

March reports were highlighted by the dimension of video monitor birding. After the loss of the long established Bald Eagle nest tree and monitor at the Iroquois Refuge last year, the eagles recovered and utilized an alternate nest tree that also accommodated remote video camera monitoring. Similarly, the Buffalo Ornithological Society and New York State DEC equipped the Statler Building Peregrine Falcon nest with a camera and monitor. Dial-a-Bird announcements included the operating hours of the Iroquois Visitor Center and the viewing location of the new Peregrine monitor.

Birds of interest that remained from February into March were the Short-eared Owls at the Dunkirk Airport, the evasive Black-headed Gull at Queenston, and the pair of Merlins at the University at Buffalo Campus. Also attracting interest were the King Eiders found in the masses of waterfowl that congregate along the Lake Ontario shore of the Niagara Peninsula.

David F. Suggs



## **New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000**

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs' Atlas Steering Committee, chaired by President Valerie M. Freer, has been meeting to plan the Federation's second breeding bird field study and atlas, commencing next year. This state-wide effort will update the status of breeding birds in New York 20 years after the highly successful first atlas took place from 1980 to 1985. The data from that atlas have been used frequently and have proved to be of great value to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, other organizations and many individuals.

Over 125 birders from every county in western New York participated in the Buffalo Ornithological Society's major effort to successfully complete atlas study in Region 1, which corresponds closely to the New York portion of the B.O.S. Study Area. Many of these birders commented how much they enjoyed atlas field study and regretted when it was completed. At this time we are seeking someone to assume the very important position of Coordinator of Region 1 during Atlas 2000, and the B.O.S. is also looking for as many birders as possible region-wide to participate in this project. If anyone is interested in the Atlas Region 1 Coordinator position or wishes to assist in the Atlas 2000 field study, I am willing to discuss with them what would be involved.

Robert F. Andrie  
(Tel.- 716-992-3520)

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

## **BOS MEETINGS**

## FIELD TRIPS

- June 4: Friday. Whip-poor-will trip and Chinese dinner. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will eat at the Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colborne, Ont. This is at 182 West Street, on the west bank of the Welland Canal. We will then go to Wilson Road, which is 4 miles west of town. Reservations are appreciated. Call Bill Burch (773-3690).
- June 9. Wednesday. BOS picnic at Tifft Nature Preserve Visitor Center, last meeting of the season. Bring your food and eat at 6:00 p.m., indoors if cold or rainy.
- Sept. 17-19 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at the Riverview Holiday Inn in Elmira, NY, hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. The Federation's Web Page can be found at: <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: [Morgmmm@AOL.com](mailto:Morgmmm@AOL.com).

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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JUL 0 / 1999

Volume 65

May, 1999

ITHACA, NY 14853 Number 5

## THE MONTH: May, 1999

April was a fine spring month in the Buffalo area. It had its typical ups and downs during the first three weeks, but ended with some of the most glorious spring weather anywhere for the final week. Overall the month was rather tame, averaging out very sunny, rather dry, and with near normal temperatures. The average temperature of 46°F. was only 0.8°F. above the long term average. The warmest weather was during the first week when temperatures averaged over 10 degrees above normal. This included the only record of the month, a toasty 76°F. on April 3. The middle two weeks were cool with normal temperatures returning for the final week. Rainfall totaled 2.21 inches, about 75% of the normal April amount. Most of it came during the middle two weeks. The month's only soaking rain of almost an inch fell on April 22-23 during the only turbulent weather period of the month. A touch of snow was in the air on April 11-12. By month's end local agricultural interests were beginning to express concern over the increasing dryness since adequate precipitation has been lacking since January. Sunshine was the big story of the month, with 58% of the possible being received. This included 11 days of full sunshine, seven of them being during the final week, when deep blue skies, mild days, and crisp nights were the rule. Spring vegetation and flowers burst into bloom. Lake Erie water temperatures slowly warmed to 43°F., about four degrees higher than in the normal year. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet.)

Writing from her home at Amity Lake near Belmont in Allegany County, Vivian Pitzrick summed up the month very nicely for most field students when she wrote, "The persistent north wind until that final week apparently held up migration and made the month SEEM colder than normal." Prior to the last week, April weather continued the trend set in March with rather flat, mild conditions that did not seem to promote obvious bird migration. Instead, most birds pushed steadily northward with few peaks or "good" days until the last week when the extremely mild conditions brought an onslaught of small passerine species. There were some exceptions to this general rule, however, particularly at the local hawk-watch sites.

Attempts by wildlife managers to restore the continental population of Sandhill Cranes to historic levels is apparently succeeding very well. Programs aimed at providing suitable resting and feeding habitat along the migration routes, i.e., the Platte River Valley in Central Nebraska, and increased relatively undisturbed



wintering habitat together with a greater awareness by the public of the plight of cranes in general, have been very evident in recent years. The trend for the species to spread into new areas where suitable habitat is available was very obvious this spring when there were Internet reports from several mid-Atlantic and New England states, and parts of Eastern Ontario. In addition to the published records below, more reports of cranes in the B.O.S. study area came via the Chautauqua Hotline as follows: one on April 2 at Forsyth Road in the Town of Ripley, one flying over Point Gratiot at Dunkirk on April 3, two flying past the Ripley hawk-watch site on April 6, and one-two frequenting the Cheney Road swamp in North Harmony from April 13-15. In areas adjacent to the B.O.S. study area, cranes were seen flying past the Braddock Bay hawk-watch site on the south shore of Lake Ontario near Rochester, at Presque Isle near Erie, Pennsylvania, and one hundred miles west of Buffalo at Long Point where up to ten individuals frequented the extensive marshes there. And from further east in west-central New York comes the intriguing report of two cranes in the Honeoye Lake area last summer and again this spring. Perhaps we are all witnesses to the comeback of a spectacular bird that represents the wilderness qualities that we seek to experience as birders but find less and less in the modern world.

The small fish called the Alewife has become an increasingly important part of the fresh water ecosystem in many parts of North America. It is frequently introduced by the ton into fresh water areas in order to provide food for those species of fish sought by the sport fisheries industry. But often, one of the major side effects is a die-off during the winter that attracts large numbers of gulls as the ice melts and the fish are exposed in very early spring. Robert Andrieu experienced this phenomenon at two points along the south shore of Lake Erie in early April. Unexpectedly large numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls (as noted below) and other species were attracted to the dead fish. Andrieu's comment about the Alewife brought back memories to this writer who birded the central Nebraska irrigation-power reservoirs on a regular basis over a long period of years. Alewife were introduced in the early 1990's and almost immediately within the first year, gulls of species previously almost unknown to the Central Great Plains were discovered: Glaucous-winged, Mew, Thayer's, Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous and Iceland to name a few. When one is delineating the factors that are causing the marked increases in large-sized gulls and range expansions, he must also consider the impact that this small fish has made.

Various points along the south shore of Lake Ontario in the Towns of Somerset, Yates, and Carlton in Niagara and Orleans Counties are often good places from which to view the waterfowl flights that follow the lake edge. On April 10, Mike Morgante, under very unfavorable north wind conditions, witnessed a significant movement of Red-breasted Mergansers, 99% of which were flying eastward. In ten minutes about 500 mergansers flew by, although the flight was steady for the 30 minutes that the observer was present in the area. Many Oldsquaws, some Common Loons, and a Caspian Tern also flew by.

Hawk watchers had an interesting month. The main flight of Broad-winged Hawks passed along the south shore of Lake Erie on April 25 when 1901 were counted at Ripley and 2229 passed over Hamburg. The Chautauqua Hotline noted four Peregrine Falcons on April 2, 15 Cooper's Hawks (a one day all time record) on April 15, and an immature Golden Eagle on April 24 - all at the Ripley hawk-watch site.

Other noteworthy observations for the month were the expected Greater White-fronted Geese on the Lake Ontario Plain and the Eurasian Wigeon at the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area. Unexpected was the Eurasian race of the Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*), a male of which was carefully studied on April 6 at Oak Orchard. This subspecies has long had somewhat of a foothold in North America; however, records for the B.O.S. study area are few, this one being about the third for the area and the first since about the 1960's. Probably the same individual Black-headed Gull that had been frequenting the Niagara River in the vicinity of the Lewiston-Queenston area for the past several months, was observed during the early part of April, when it was almost in full breeding plumage. The high count of 55 Caspian Terns at Dunkirk Harbor was of special interest, as were the continuing reports of the western blackbirds, Yellow-headed and Brewer's.



Activity among the early nesting species was evident during April. The heronry at Motor Island in the Niagara River, most easily seen from the foot of Sheridan Drive in the Town of Tonawanda or from Beaver Island State Park at the south end of Grand Island, was active with 29 Great Blue Heron nests. Bill Watson pointed out that the colony is no longer restricted to the southern tip of the island; it has now spread throughout the island with 13 nests at the northern end and 16 at the southern end. Are the cormorants, also present on the island, causing this? Up to three Great Egrets and 14 Black-crowned Night-Herons were also noted on the island during the month. The monitored Bald Eagle nest at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and the Peregrine Falcon nest in downtown Buffalo fared well during the month. And somewhat surprising was the report of two Ring-billed Gull nests, each containing one egg, at the Batavia Waste Water Lagoons... an interesting "inland" nesting site for a species that usually chooses an area immediately in or adjacent to the Great Lakes.

Richard C. Rosche

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station. →

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	10	15	Somerset	Morgante
"	16	27	North Harmony	Neveu
Horned Grebe	4	28	Oakfield	Seamans
"	8	26	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
"	8	27	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Roberson
"	9,18	5,3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	4	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	8	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
D.-crested Cormorant	1	2	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna
"	4	12	Buffalo	Morgante
"	23	8	Amity Lake	Pitzrick, Adams
"	25	570	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Rising
"	27	72	Strawberry Island	Watson
"	30	190	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Great Blue Heron	11	29ad+29nests	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
*Great Egret	6F,18	1,3	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Great Egret	8	2	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	18-30	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	24	2	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Green Heron	17F	1	Lewiston	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Lancaster	S&T O'Donnell
Black-cr. Night-Heron	26	85	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Roberson
"	27	14	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Turkey Vulture	7	130	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
*Gr. White-fr. Goose	3	1	Newstead	Yoerg
"	25	2	Yates	DeLeon et al
Snow Goose	1	14	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
Mute Swan	21	1	Hamburg	Andrle
Tundra Swan	4	12	Oakfield	Seamans
"	10	10	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
*Eurasian Wigeon	2	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Chilton
American Wigeon	10	100	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante
Northern Shoveler	3,11	30,96	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Green-winged Teal				
<i>A. c. crecca</i>	6	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
Redhead	3	20	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	10	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante
"	11	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
Ring-necked Duck	6	176	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
Oldsquaw	3	4	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	4,15	21,2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	18	1	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
Bufflehead	3	169	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Red-br. Merganser	10	1000	Somerset	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	2,26	6,4	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Chilton
"	3	30	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	4	18	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	21	2	Hamburg	Andrle
*Osprey	4F	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	8	1	Hamburg	Klick
"	17	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante, Turisk
"	17	1	Bond Lake Park	D'Anna, Potter
"	25	12	Hamburg	Rew et al
Bald Eagle	6	1ad+2eggs	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	16	1 imm.	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
"	25	1	Hamburg	Rew et al
Northern Harrier	25	1	Tifft N.P.	Skalicky
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	18	1	Hamburg	Morgante et al
*Broad-winged Hawk	17F,18	12,69	Hamburg	Morgante, Turisk
"	25	2229	Hamburg	Rew et al



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Rough-legged Hawk	9	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
*Virginia Rail	18F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Skalicky, Davis
"	18F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Seamans
*Sora	25F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Morgante
*Common Moorhen	17F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Kehlenbeck
"	28	1	North Harmony	Neveu
*Sandhill Crane	18	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Davis et al
"	29	2	Shelby	Sowinski et al
Greater Yellowlegs	1	2	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	3	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Davis, Skalicky
"	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	6;17	3;12	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson; S&T O'Donnell
*Lesser Yellowlegs	8F	3	Villanova	Neveu
"	11	2	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
*Spotted Sandpiper	22F	1	Lancaster	S&T O'Donnell
"	23	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Davis
*Upland Sandpiper	25F	1	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
"	26	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
*Pectoral Sandpiper	1F	6	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	8,17	15,17	Brant	Neveu
"	10	7	Leon	Neveu
"	26	10	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
Common Snipe	1	10	Jos. Davis S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	9;14	1;5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Wojewodzki
"	10	4	Leon	Neveu
"	19	22	Somerset	Seamans
Little Gull	12;17	3;3	Lewiston	Cooper; D'Anna, Potter
"	14,23	3,2	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Bonaparte's Gull	16,17	20,33	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
"	22	14	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	28	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-billed Gull	24	2 Nests	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Iceland Gull	1	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	4	2	Sturgeon Point	Andrle
"	14,23	1,1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	4	2	Sturgeon Point	Andrle
Glaucous Gull	17	4	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante, Turisk
"	17	1	Cattaraugus Creek	Neveu
"	19,25	2,1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Great Black-b. Gull	4	64	Sturgeon Point	Andrle
"	4	110	Wendt Beach S.P.	Andrle
*Caspian Tern	10F	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	13	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	23	<u>55</u>	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Common Tern	17F	1	Lewiston	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
*Black Tern	28F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Long-eared Owl	4	4	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	1	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	1	Wethersfield	Junkin
*Chimney Swift	21F	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	25	1	Hamburg	Rew et al
Red-headed Wdpkr.	29	1	East Pembroke	Seamans
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	3F	1	Lockport	S&T O'Donnell
"	8,24	7,11	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	24	11	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
*Blue-headed Vireo	17F	1	Lewiston	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Portland	Mosher
Common Raven	2	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	20	3	Amity	Pitzrick
Horned Lark	10	100	Yates	Morgante
*N. Rough-w. Swallow	8F	1	South Park, Bflo.	Andrle
"	16	100	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
*Barn Swallow	8F	2	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	10	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante
Brown Creeper	25	30	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Skalicky
Carolina Wren	14	2	Snyder	Klick
"	14	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	24	2	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
*House Wren	19F	1	Cattaraugus Creek	Neveu
"	25	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Winter Wren	4	1	Lewiston	Cooper
"	5	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
*Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
"	8	3	Silver Creek	Neveu
*Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	14F	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	3	Point Gratiot	Neveu
Hermit Thrush	3F	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Northern Mockingbird	17	1	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
*Brown Thrasher	18F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Skalicky, Davis
American Pipit	1	75	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	3	200	Westfield	Neveu
*Yellow Warbler	23F	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	30	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Yellow-r. Warbler	8	4	Tifft N.P.	Klick
*Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	28F	5	Sprague Brook Park	Wojewodzki
"	30	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg, Henderson



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	30	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Hess, McClennan
*Blackburnian Warbler	29F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
*Pine Warbler	14	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Wojewodzki
"	15	2	Hanover	Neveu
*Palm Warbler	26F	2	Goat Island	Roberson
"	29	2	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Davis
"	30	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg, Henderson
*Black-and-white Warb.	25F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Skalicky
"	25F	1	Tifft N.P.	Wojewodzki
*Northern Waterthrush	25F	1	Tifft N.P.	Skalicky; Wojewodzki
*Louisiana Waterthrush	25F	2	Hunter's Creek Park	Skalicky, Davis
Eastern Towhee	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	8	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
*Chipping Sparrow	1F	2	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	7	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
*Field Sparrow	1F	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	3	1	Chautauqua	Neveu
*Vesper Sparrow	7F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	18	3	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
"	25	1	Cambria	D'Anna, Potter
*Savannah Sparrow	10F	3	Somerset	Morgante
Fox Sparrow	1	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	1-19	4 max.	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick
"	2	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	4	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Seamans
"	8	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Chilton
"	12	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	3	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	19	1	Depew	Barber
"	25	1	Hunter's Creek Park	Skalicky, Davis
*Swamp Sparrow	8F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
"	10	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante
Lapland Longspur	16,25	12,2	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
"	17	1	Stockton	Mosher
"	26	2	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
*Yellow-h. Blackbird	23	1	Lockport	A. Smith
Rusty Blackbird	25	1	Tifft N.P.	Wojewodzki
<u>Brewer's Blackbird</u>	2	1	Oakfield	McKinney
"	27	1	Tifft N.P.	Rew
Purple Finch	1-30	8	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	1-30	7 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	1	1	Somerset	D'Anna

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded ..... 132

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue (including April Count) ..... 41  
Total for year ..... 173

**Summary of Hotline and Dial-a-Bird Activity – April 1999**

April reports to Dial-a-Bird added 45 new species to the 1999 list. A wide range of species cross paths in April - waterfowl, raptors, gulls and warblers.

Beginning the month were the now annual Sandhill Cranes, still one of the highlights of April birding accounts. There were four reports of cranes from Chautauqua County during the month. One or two apparently lingered more than a week on Cheney Road in North Harmony. Another species joining the regular list in recent years is the Greater White-fronted Goose, but only one was reported from Clarence. Much rarer were the Eurasian Wigeon and Eurasian Green-winged Teal found one time each at Windmill Marsh at Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area. In contrast, an escaped Black Swan at the Tillman WMA in Clarence was reported several times each week during April.

Announcements describing the hawkwatches at Ripley and Hamburg may have enticed some new birders to visit the sites and witness raptor migration. For the third month, a Black-headed Gull was reported on the lower Niagara River along with numerous Little Gulls. Early in the month, several Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were found along the Lake Erie shore. The end of the month was marked by the first reports of warbler migration.

David F. Suggs

**PEREGRINE FALCONS IN BUFFALO-An Update Of June 1, 1999**

The activity is on schedule at the Peregrine Falcon nest at the top of the Statler Towers building in Buffalo. Of the four eggs laid between March 18 and 24, three had hatched by April 23, close to a 30-day incubation period.

The chicks were banded May 14, at the age of three weeks. The chicks, two females and one male, were banded by Chris Nadareski of the New York City DEC office. In charge was Mark Kandel of the Buffalo DEC office. A Channel 2 TV cameraman recorded the banding along with Nadareski's running explanation. The operation took only 26 minutes from opening the box to returning the third chick. Meanwhile, the angry parents raced past the box entrance, screaming. But all quieted down quickly afterward.

The fourth egg did not hatch. It disappeared, probably eaten by the female.

On Saturday, May 29, all three young were jostling each other as they worked their wings. Flight was close at hand at just under 40 days of age. One flew Sunday morning (probably the male), the second Monday morning, and the third on Tuesday, June 1.

Watchers with scopes were present all day Tuesday, talking to excited Statler workers and passersby. The male was now an accomplished flyer, the only one capable of returning to the nest. The two females rested or practiced short flights on nearby lower roofs. Most of the day all five Peregrines could be seen from the Statler entrance on Genesee. The young subsisted on baby fat as well as prey from the parents. By the end of the week all three will be good flyers.

While watcher Cathy Sanderson and I were lunching in the Statler deli, Mayor Masiello walked in. I approached him and broke the news that all three young Peregrines now were flying. I imagine he had some knowledge of the nesting. At any rate he responded quickly with, "I thank you for your advocacy."

Many persons thanked us (the BOS) for the video monitor which had given them an insight into this Peregrine event.

Bill Burch



Report of the 1999 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 11, 1999

Compilers: Ed Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, Terry Yonker

**Weather Synopsis:** On Thursday and Friday before the count, the second largest tornado outbreak of the season occurred in Iowa, Mississippi, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. An F5 tornado with winds estimated at 207 mph hit the Cincinnati, Ohio area. Another developing low pressure area was situated over Iowa early in the morning of the count with a warm front advancing northeast from the low into Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. A large high was centered over the central Rockies with another weaker high situated off the East Coast. A strong jet stream flowed southeasterly across the Mississippi Valley. In the northern sections of the count area, partly sunny skies prevailed until noon. But as the day progressed Mother Nature unleashed her full arsenal of strong winds, heavy rain, thunderstorms, snow and drizzle over the count area, moving northeastward in advance of the warm front. By dusk some areas to the northwest saw broken skies and a sunset.

Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 6:40 am edt    Sunset: 7:52 pm edt

Time	Conditions	DegF	Dew Pt	R Humid	Press.	Dir/Wind	Remarks:
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	36	23	59	30.14	ENE 8	Rain SW of Erie, PA
3:00 am	Partly Cloudy	32	23	69	30.12	E 8	Rain moves NE into Erie, PA
6:00 am	Cloudy	34	25	70	30.04	E 14	Heavy Rain/Sleet in Erie
9:00 am	Cloudy	36	25	64	29.99	ENE 15	Rain moves into Chautauqua
12:00 pm	Cloudy	39	25	57	29.89	E 21	Rain spreads to Southtowns
3:00 pm	Thunderstorms	39	32	76	29.74	E 13	Heavy Rain in Section 1
6:00 pm	Snow Flurries	34	32	92	29.73	NE 17	2 inches of snow on NOTL
9:00 pm	Drizzle	34	30	85	29.71	ENE 15	Heaviest rain moves East

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

L o o n s – D u c k s

Red-throated Loon	3	(3)	Blue-winged Teal	98
Common Loon	53		Northern Shoveler	113
Pied-billed Grebe	62		Northern Pintail	2 (23)
Horned Grebe	30		Green-winged Teal	129
Double-crested Cormorant	709		Canvasback	1,111
Great Blue Heron	298		Redhead	17
Great Egret	1	(9)	Ring-necked Duck	585
Black-crowned Night-Heron	148	(2,8)	Greater Scaup	824
Turkey Vulture	195		Lesser Scaup	282
Snow Goose	6	(28)	Unspecified scaup	104
Canada Goose	18,209		White-winged Scoter	160
Mute Swan	5	(3,6)	Oldsquaw	562
Tundra Swan	14		Bufflehead	673
Wood Duck	429		Common Goldeneye	67
Gadwall	22		Hooded Merganser	161
American Widgeon	147		Common Merganser	583
American Black Duck	65		Red-breasted Merganser	6,038
Mallard	1,379		Ruddy Duck	130 (13,23)

**Raptors - Coots**

Osprey	20		Rough-legged Hawk	2	(3,18)
Bald Eagle	5	(10,17,24)	Unspecified buteos	2	(10,16)
Northern Harrier	43		American Kestrel	181	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	29		Ring-necked Pheasant	15	
Cooper's Hawk	14		Ruffed Grouse	23	
Unspecified accipiters	2	(13)	Wild Turkey	385	
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	(18,24,28)	American Coot	127	
Red-tailed Hawk	199				

**Plovers - Terns**

Killdeer	283		Bonaparte's Gull	16,547	
Greater Yellowlegs	21		Ring-billed Gull	30,938	
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	(13)	Herring Gull	954	
Pectoral Sandpiper	32	(6)	Great Black-backed Gull	368	
Common Snipe	45		Caspian Tern	8	
American Woodcock	22		<b>Forster's Tern</b>	1	(3)
Little Gull	18	(2,3,20)			

**Doves - Swallows**

Rock Dove	979		Pileated Woodpecker	23	
Mourning Dove	1,533		Eastern Phoebe	130	
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	(3)	<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	1	(10)
Great Horned Owl	7		Blue-headed Vireo	1	(24)
Barred Owl	11		Blue Jay	911	
Long-eared Owl	1	(3)	American Crow	2,863	
Short-eared Owl	4	(3,5,20)	Common Raven	7	(28)
Belted Kingfisher	80		Horned Lark	74	
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	(3)	Purple Martin	7	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	59		Tree Swallow	2,668	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	41		N. Rough-winged Swallow	21	
Downy Woodpecker	317		Barn Swallow	45	
Hairy Woodpecker	71		unspecified swallows	4	(12)
Northern Flicker	415				

**Tits - Waxwings**

Black-capped Chickadee	1,363		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	35	
Tufted Titmouse	113		Eastern Bluebird	66	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	39		Hermit Thrush	13	
White-breasted Nuthatch	171		American Robin	7,883	
Brown Creeper	72		Northern Mockingbird	11	(1,3,20)
Carolina Wren	1	(1)	European Starling	16,117	
Winter Wren	26		American Pipit	264	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	280		Cedar Waxwing	311	(12,14,28)



## Warblers - House Sparrows

Yellow-rumped Warbler	24	Northern Cardinal	634
Eastern Towhee	10	Red-winged Blackbird	7,799
American Tree Sparrow	221	Eastern Meadowlark	85
Chipping Sparrow	108	Rusty Blackbird	446
Field Sparrow	15	Common Grackle	6,784
Vesper Sparrow	7	Brown-headed Cowbird	1,126
Savannah Sparrow	56	Purple Finch	208
Fox Sparrow	34	House Finch	623
Song Sparrow	1,303	Red Crossbill	5 (18,26)
Swamp Sparrow	68	Common Redpoll	2 (28)
White-throated Sparrow	109	Pine Siskin	2 (27)
White-crowned Sparrow	7	American Goldfinch	683
Dark-eyed Junco	2,334	Evening Grosbeak	29 (27,28)
unspecified sparrows	3 (13)	House Sparrow	1,222
Lapland Longspur	30 (5)	unspecified birds	70 (9)

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total Species Observed – 129  
Total Individual Birds Observed – 143,695  
Number of Observers – 237

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: The accompanying chart compares this year's records with those for 1990-1999 and those for 1979-1999.

OBSERVERS: (Section compilers are printed in bold face.)

- Section 1: William Broderick, David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Victoria Rothman, Jim Wojewodski, Terry Yonker
- Section 2: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Maggie Smiley, Al Smith, Katherine Stoltz
- Section 3: **Willie D'Anna**, Jerald Farrell, Susan Farrell, Julie Horne, William Horne, Patrick O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell, Thomas O'Donnell, Betsy Potter, Michael Turisk
- Section 4: **Robert Brock**, Deborah Hovland, William Watson
- Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, **Dick Christensen**, Peggy Christensen, Tom Doeblin, Morgan Jones, Aron Kehlenbeck, Brandon Klick, Marion Smith
- Section 6: Bob Andrie, **Joe Thill**
- Section 7: **Edward Fuchs**, Mike Hamilton
- Section 8: Robert Ernst, Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**
- Section 9: Robbyn Drake, **John Filor**, **Robert Wagner**
- Section 10: Edward Crohn, **Donald Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte
- Section 11: **Michael Davis**, Robbyn Drake, Jack Skalicky
- Section 12: **Ann Bauer**, Marion Bee, Mike Morgante, Ruth Phillips
- Section 13: Douglas Beattie, Elaine Dart, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Marie Johnson, Aron Kehlenbeck, Aron Kehlenbeck, Jr., Zeke Kehlenbeck, Alice McKale, Dorothy Rosche, Richard Rosche, **Gail Seamans**, Donald Thurau, Anne Vogt

- Section 14: Pat Andrie, Ernie Baker, Ken Brandes, Jean Collins, Jim Covina, Joanne Dobler, Ed Fuchs, Doug C. Happ, Doug J. Happ, Erma Kern, Glenna Leous, Tim McCallister, Mike Noville, Carolyn Ronald, **Barbara Walker**, Margaret Wooley
- Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**, Debbie Brown, Ed Ratajczak, Olga Rosche
- Section 16: **Tom Connare**, **Marian Dornhaffer**
- Section 17: Tom Koopman, **Bert Schweigert**
- Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Barbara Henderson, James Landau, Peter Yoerg
- Section 19: Ron Andrews, Roy Bielewicz, Faye Clancy, Barbara Cronk, **Alice Evans**, Will Kennedy, Roxie Lates, Dora Lilly, Bernard Mills, Larry Mullen, Roger Nicholson, Mrs. Roger Nicholson, John Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Ben Smith, Elaine Smith, Emmette Smith, Mrs. Emmette Smith, William Smith, Anne Vaclavik, Ann Voss, Jay Wilson, Mrs. Jay Wilson, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
- Section 20: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Terry Mahoney, Richard Miga, A. Morrison, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Marilyn O'Connell, Tom O'Connell, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer
- Section 21: Julie Heilman, **Dr. William Seleen**, Kelly Suckow, Sue Suckow
- Section 22: Linda O'Brian, **Dr. William Seleen**
- Section 23: Steve Maggio, **Dr. William Seleen**, Tom Simmons
- Section 24: **Tim Baird**, Pat Bogan, Tom LeBlanc, Jane Meisner,
- Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Stephen W. Eaton, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
- Section 26: Llewellyn Bump, **Doris Burton**, Deborah Floyd, Frances Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann Scott, Morris Scott, Bruce Smalley
- Section 27: **Doris Burton**, Estella Cronauer, Audrey Dunham, George Dunham, Doris Hurlburt, Helen Link, Lillian Simons, Jake Strong
- Section 28: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Russell Allen, Shawn Allen, Dan Babcock, Harold Babcock, Carol Behn, Warren Bouck, Don Brink, Betsy Brooks, Wayne Bruster, **Doris Burton**, Dale Coats, Ruth Coats, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Cynthia Culley, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Luke Donius, Phyllis DuBreuil, Ann Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, Keegan Fleming, Walt Franklin, John Gradoni, Elsie Kent, **Clarence Klingensmith**, Margaret Klingensmith, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Cathy MacDonald, Pete MacDonald, Marion McClure, Mike McKee, Alice Meyers, Mary Ormsby, Larry Osgood, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Beverly Perry, Jean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Vivian Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Danielle Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Dan Rase, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzke, Lynn Rositzke, Nancy Rouse, Helen Shear, Tera Soule, Conner Stephens, Bruce Taggart, Mrs. Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Bea Thompson, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Betty Warek-Fowler, Mary Lu Wells, Suzanne Wood



Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual April Count, April 11, 1999

Section	L O O N S - D U C K S										P L O V E R S - T E R N S										R A P T O R S - C O O T S										D O V E S - S W A L L O W S										Total	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	No. of Sectns																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
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Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual April Count, April 11, 1999

Section	No. of Scins																															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Total			
Belted Kingfisher	4	1	10	1	3					2	1	1	7	2	1		2			12	2	2	1	4	4	5		7	80	22		
Red-headed Woodpecker		2	2	2	2					2	2	6	9	6		1		1	8	2	2							9	59	16		
Red-bellied Woodpecker			3							1	1	4	4	1			3	4	1	3			2	11				8	41	13		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12	6	9	1	8		5	10	2		30	5	15	29	16	2	1	7	57	31	3	1	3	8	5	10	5	36	317	26		
Downy Woodpecker	1		2					1	1			2	2	13	3			8	7	2	2	1	1		3	2	6	16	71	17		
Hairy Woodpecker	8	6	34	9	6	4	11	8	2	6	27	4	34	37	10	17	2	7	13	87	4	6	13	19	11	8	2	20	415	28		
Northern Flicker											3	1	2	3						5	1	1	1	2	1	1		3	23	11		
Pileated Woodpecker	5				4		3	2	2	2	1		8	2	3			4	16	11	6	2	6	5	7	15	1	25	130	21		
Eastern Phoebe																														1	1	
Eastern Kingbird																																
Blue Jay	52	9	34	28	11	1	10	3	23	5	16	14	65	39	32	5	5	20	156	109	11	10	22	15	18	48	13	137	911	28		
American Crow	56	58	168	82	65	10	45		42	64	16	59	264	152	97	48	63	122	212	417	34	67	19	101	84	106	60	352	2863	27		
Common Raven					34							2	11					3		15								7	7	1		
Horned Lark		2	4					3														3					2	1	74	9	3	
Purple Martin							1																						7			
Tree Swallow		12	36	2	530	95	23	50	5	643	30	5	312	13	4	14	64	3	37	244	55	35	250	24	48	119		15	2668	26		
N. Rough-winged Swallow		3				1					5			4						3								1	21	7		
Barn Swallow		2			2	1	4										1				5							30	45	7		
unspecified swallows												4																		4	1	
T I T S - W A X W I N G S																																
Black-capped Chickadee	29	18	42	16	10		10	15	5	16	60	41	62	94	25	24	10	101	121	107	10	17	8	29	13	118	39	323	1363	27		
Tufted Titmouse	1	3	2					4		2	10	3	6	18	3				16	11		2	3	3		4	2	18	113	19		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2												3	2			1	3	10	1								11	39	11		
White-breasted Nuthatch	3		4	3			1		2	1	6	2	10	13	4		2	4	32	12	2	2	2	9	5	7	5	40	171	23		
Brown Creeper	10		5	4	1	1	5	9		1	11	6	2	2	1		1	4	2	3	1	1					3	72	19			
Carolina Wren	1																												1	1	1	
Winter Wren	2	1	3					1			6	1		1				4		1			2				4	26	11			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	4	32	15	24		9	5	1		30	9	6	29			11	53		16		7		6	1		6	280	19			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	1	1		2		2	10			4		2	1				1					2				2	35	14			
Eastern Bluebird	4		3		2							4	7			2	1		8	14			3	4		2		11	66	14		
Hermit Thrush			1				1				3			3				2										3	13	6		
American Robin	222	120	828	299	270	60	155	215	132	172	72	89	615	480	208	228	112	301	342	1140	84	247	66	79	120	299	63	865	7883	28		
Northern Mockingbird	4		6																	1								11	3			
European Starling	1348	520	2326	1043	2340	195	400	160	250	631	12	273	1373	524	325	156	285	503	397	1013	190	242	146	59	82	326	223	775	16117	28		
American Pipit		3			47							60	8	25	65					97					19			264	7			
Cedar Waxwing														10														241	311	3		
W A R B L E R S - H O U S E S P A R R O W S																																
Yellow-rumped Warbler			14				2		3		2	1		1					2	1							1		24	7		
Eastern Towhee																												4	10	6		
American Tree Sparrow	6	4	7	3	5			30			15	5	18		10		1		34	31	3					14	2	33	221	17		
Chipping Sparrow	1		1		4				1				7	17	4	2	1		8	17	2	1	5			9		28	108	16		
Field Sparrow													1	4					3	3						1		2	15	7		
Vesper Sparrow													1				1	1		4								7	4			
Savannah Sparrow			3		4	1						1	23				1	9		8							6		56	9		
Fox Sparrow			1	1							1						6	8		1	1				3			12	34	9		
Song Sparrow	25	10	67	41	30	18	6	20	15	12	34	23	151	70	26	29	66	57	70	159	10	15	32	54	14	55	12	184	1303	28		
Swamp Sparrow											1	2	9	1			6	1		4	1		6	2		30		5	68			



## **BOS HAWK TRIP TO GRIMSBY, ONTARIO APRIL 17, 1999**

The weather did not bode well, being overcast with occasional drizzle and a 42°F temperature. No one was at the starting place, so I drove alone to the Beamer Conservation Area at Grimsby. There I met David Cooper who was introducing his friend, Jack Taylor, to the sport of birding. There were precious few hawks passing by but we did have a good time finding interesting birds for ourselves and the beginner.

The counter, Chris Escott from Toronto, had a total of 29 raptors between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. These were 16 Turkey Vultures, 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 Broad-winged Hawk (the first of the year there), and 1 Merlin.

At the two feeding platforms only 20 feet away, two Fox Sparrows were busy and could be compared with a feeding Brown Thrasher, which was nest-building at the corner of the property. The Fox Sparrows are on hand there the first three weeks of April. Also at the feeder were Dark-eyed Juncos, and White-throated, Tree, and Song Sparrows. The obligatory walk through the woods yielded a White-breasted Nuthatch busy at its nest hole, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and a Hairy Woodpecker.

In bloom in the woods were a few Hepatica, an expanse of Periwinkle, some Blood Root, and a few Colt's Foot. Leafed out but not yet in bloom were Trillium, Trout Lily, and Spring Beauty.

Driving west on Ridge Road we made a loop around Concession Roads 10 and 11. Missing this year were the Bluebirds and the nesting Great Horned Owl but we had good views of Northern Harrier, Ring-necked Duck, and two American Kestrels in courtship flight.

Bruce Duncan arrived to lead a nature walk. In talking about Peregrine Falcons, he said that in Hamilton our "Toledo" female is paired with last year's Hamilton male; his previous mate did not show up. The distribution of Peregrine nests in Ontario in 1998 was 6 nests in cities and 17 in non-urban areas.

We finished this day of pleasant birding at 2:00 p.m., with neophyte Jack having acquired a handful of "life birds."

Bill Burch

## **BRADDOCK BAY HAWK TRIP APRIL 25, 1999**

Leader Mike Zebehazy had 11 birders with him on a sunny morning for the annual trip to the Rochester area. The 7:00 a.m. start produces good birding along the way. On Route 18 just west of Route 63, we were checking 200 Canada Geese when Bob DeLeon spotted two White-fronted Geese. These require a write-up and Bob supplied one. Also in the seasonal ponds were Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, a Common Snipe, and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. A Pileated Woodpecker was seen entering the woods. Further along on the Lake Ontario Parkway, seven Turkeys were seen, and as we approached Braddock Bay there were 13 Mute Swans in small groups. They are becoming a pest in the area.

Co-leader Bob Spahn met us at Braddock Bay State Park and offered us much-appreciated coffee and donuts. A good raptor flight was in progress and the spotters tallied about 500 for the morning. The list of Ed Fuchs for the time we were there had 15 Turkey Vultures, 8 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Northern Harriers, 2 Ospreys, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 immature Bald Eagle, and 87 Broad-winged Hawks; these were in kettles of



about 15 each and many were low enough to show all details. A Caspian Tern and 10 Double-crested Cormorants were in the nearby bay.

At Island Cottage Woods, four miles east of the Bay, we saw Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, both Kinglets, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, and Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler.

Spahn took us on the country roads several miles west of the Bay. A high point was a flock of Common Snipe resting in a marshy meadow on the east side of Walker-Lake Ontario Road just south of Chase Road. Perturbed by the roadside watchers, the Snipe flew off by twos and threes in their zig-zag flight until 40 or more had flown. Bob had counted 90 there the week before. He said they did not nest nearby. In other fields were two Northern Shovelers and a Snow Goose.

Bob Spahn also informed us that Peregrine Falcons had a nest with three eggs atop the Eastman-Kodak building in Rochester.

We left the Rochester area at 3:00 p.m., and returned through the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. There we saw the two adult Bald Eagles on the nest with two chicks, two Eastern Bluebirds, 50 American Coots, Eastern Phoebe, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, and American Kestrel. Seen at one place or another were 5 Rusty Blackbirds, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Savannah and Song Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-breasted Merganser, American Wigeon, Pied-billed Grebe, Barn, Tree, and Rough-winged Swallows, Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls, Black-capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch, and about a dozen other common species. It was a satisfying day's trip.

Bill Burch

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please welcome a new Associate Member:

## BOS MEETINGS

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-4311).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

## BOS BANQUET

**SAVE THIS DATE!!!** Friday, November 12, 1999. Make your plans to attend the 1999 BOS Banquet on this date at the Protocol Restaurant in Williamsville. The featured speaker will be Kenneth Able, Professor of Ornithology for SUNY at Albany and author of the recently released book, *Gathering Of Angels: The Ecology*



*Of Migrating Birds*. Join us for this interesting and fun-filled evening with fine food and friends. More details will follow.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FIELD TRIPS

- July 11: Sunday. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Count of the North American Butterfly Association. Contact David Cooper (284-4118) if you wish to participate or learn about butterflies.
- July 18: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you wish to meet us on the Canadian side, please contact the leader.
- Aug. 22: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you wish to meet us on the Canadian side, please contact the leader.
- Sept. 17-19 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at the Riverview Holiday Inn in Elmira, NY, hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. The Federation's Web Page can be found at: <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: [Morgmmm@AOL.com](mailto:Morgmmm@AOL.com).

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: [ChasHal@AOL.com](mailto:ChasHal@AOL.com)

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Volume 65

June, 1999

Number 6

## THE MONTH: May, 1999

Weather conditions during May were very favorable for birds and birders! Significant storms that are frequently responsible for drop-downs of birds were lacking. Instead, birds moved through the region steadily, especially during the first two weeks of the month. May was a warm, dry, and sunny month. At Buffalo the average temperature was 59.7° F., some 3.1° F. above normal, whereas inland at Wellsville temperatures averaged 5.8° F. above the norm. Precipitation at Buffalo was below normal for the fourth consecutive month; with 2.82 inches it was 0.32 inches below normal. At Wellsville precipitation data indicated a deficit of 1.38 inches. Sunshine amounted to 62% of the possible, 12% above the norm. The first two days of May continued a nine-day streak of 100% sunshine, the longest period of such in recent memory. By month's end Lake Erie temperatures had risen to 55° F., one degree above normal. (Buffalo meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet. Wellsville data courtesy of Vivian Pitzrick).

Birds usually showing affinities towards more southern climes were much in evidence during May in the Niagara Frontier region. First and foremost was the female Blue Grosbeak that was studied and photographed at a feeder on May 11 in the Town of Bethany in Genesee County by J. Douglas and Sharon Beattie. The four photographs submitted as documentation leave no doubt about the correctness of the identification. This is perhaps only the second record for the region and the first since 1975 when one was reported from Fredonia.

Unfortunately not documented for B.O.S. archives, but nevertheless significant, was a Chautauqua Hotline report of a Mississippi Kite that flew past the Ripley Hawk Watch site on May 17. This was purported to be the third Chautauqua County record. One expects Mississippi Kites in the southern and south-central states where they have increased and expanded their range markedly in recent years. This spring the species was reported on numerous occasions from various northeastern and mid-Atlantic states - Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and southeastern New York - from west of Buffalo at Long Point and Point Pelee, Ontario, and at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania where the first record for that site was established. Local



observers should be on the watch for kites in the B.O.S. region in the future, especially on the Lake Plains. This bird also finds favorable feeding and nesting habitat in and around tall trees in towns and villages, especially those situated in riparian areas.

Other more southerly species that made a good showing during May are those listed below - Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, and Kentucky Warblers, and Orchard Oriole. There was an additional report of a Worm-eating Warbler on the Chautauqua Hotline for May 9 when one was observed at Point Gratiot at Dunkirk. One other southern species, a Snowy Egret, was reported on the Internet for about May 24 at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition to the rare Red-necked Phalarope report documented for the records below, another very rare shorebird was reported on the Rare Bird Alert - a Piping Plover at Rock Point Provincial Park, Ontario on May 12. An interesting flight of spring migrant Willets was evident on May 8 when there were Internet reports of six individuals at Long Point and eight at Point Pelee, Ontario. On the same day in B.O.S. territory a Willet was observed at Chautauqua Lake as noted on the Chautauqua Hotline. Very surprising was a second inland Willet on the following day at a small wetland near Gainesville, Wyoming County, a first record for that county.

Among the sparrows and buntings there were two interesting reports. One of the northwestern North America nesting forms of the White-crowned Sparrow, the so-called "Gambel's" race, was a "probable" at Goat Island in Niagara Falls during the second week of the month. Very late Lapland Longspurs, some of which were in full breeding plumage, were a treat for some observers.

We end on a negative note with the comment that many observers indicated that Cape May Warblers were extremely scarce as migrants this spring. In fact, several birders who were often in the field during the season completely missed the species this year. The Spruce Budworm outbreaks that affect the northern nesting areas are thought to be the cause of the marked fluctuations in Cape May Warbler numbers. Most ornithologists believe that this bird appears to be more common during those years when the budworm is at its peak. This may be true, but the long term affect of the outbreaks combined with the other insects that attack once the trees are weakened, cause many trees that are potential nesting sites to die. This writer has noted in recent years vast expanses of dead spruces and spruce tree tops, when visiting known nesting locations in Minnesota, New England and Quebec and few, often no, Cape May Warblers.

Richard C. Rosche

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	8L	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
Common Loon	23	11	Rock Point P.P.	Klick



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	31	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
Horned Grebe	29	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante
D.-crested Cormorant	20	293	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	21	36 + 7 nests	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	22	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	26	47 + 8 nests	Strawberry Island	Watson
"	30	80	Batavia WWTP	Klick
*American Bittern	1F,9	3,3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	8	1	Amity	M. Pitzrick
*Least Bittern	15F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	15F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	30	1	Tifft N.P.	Rising, Galas
Great Blue Heron	21	21ad+7yn	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Great Egret	1-31	4 max.	Tonawanda	Hess
"	4,10	5,3	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	9	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rising, Hamilton
"	28	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2,21	13,9	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	15	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	23	2	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Andrle
*Brant	15F	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	23L	1	Olcott	D'Anna; S&T O'Donnell
Mute Swan	15	2	Olcott	Morgante et al
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Gadwall	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Northern Shoveler	8,15	3,1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	25	1	Bismark, Ont.	D'Anna
Green-winged Teal	25	1	Bismark, Ont.	D'Anna
"	30	1	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Redhead	1,9,15	4,2,3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	1,9,15	6,3,1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
Ring-necked Duck	15	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	25L	1	Bismark, Ont.	D'Anna
Greater Scaup	26	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson
"	29	5	Niagara Falls	Morgante
"	30L	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Lesser Scaup	2;21	60;10	Times Beach	Morgante; Hess
"	14	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	15;30	6;6	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
White-winged Scoter	23L	6	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna
Oldsquaw	15	10	Olcott	Morgante et al
Bufflehead	15L	3	Niagara Falls	Morgante et al
Common Goldeneye	15	1	Goat Island	Morgante et al
"	22	1	Windmill Point, Ont.	Skalicky

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Merganser	15	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante et al
Ruddy Duck	1	15	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna et al
"	1	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna et al
"	30	7	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Osprey	1,15	1,1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	1-21	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	28	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	30	1	Windmill Point, Ont.	Yoerg
Bald Eagle	1;12	1 imm.;1 imm.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante; Beason
"	2	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick(BOS)
"	9,15	1,1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	9,22	2 yn	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	17	1 imm.	Hamburg	Rew
"	23	1 imm.	Pomfret	Neveu
"	29	1 imm.	Sheridan	Neveu
Northern Goshawk	3;29	1;1	Eagle	Watson; Watson, Klick
Red-shouldered Hawk	15	2	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	D'Anna et al
Merlin	2L	2	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Peregrine Falcon	12L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Beason
"	15	1	Statler Tower, Bflo.	Morgante et al
"	23	3 yn	Statler Tower, Bflo	Watson
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	1	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna et al
"	15	1	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
*Black-bellied Plover	9F	4	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16	3	Golden Hill S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	30L	1	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Amer. Golden-Plover	<u>22</u>	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
*Semipalmated Plover	8F	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	14	1	Gouinlock's Pond	Morgante
"	30	5	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Greater Yellowlegs	15	6	Hartland	Morgante et al
Lesser Yellowlegs	23	7	Pomfret	Neveu
"	28	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
*Solitary Sandpiper	2F	3	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	5	1	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
"	8	11	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	23L	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
*Willet	<u>9</u>	1	Gainsville	R&D Rosche
Upland Sandpiper	1;17	1;4	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick; Davis et al
"	13	3	Sheldon	R&D Rosche
"	15	1	Hartland	Morgante, D'Anna et al
"	30	1	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Whimbrel	22F	1	Windmill Point, Ont.	Skalicky



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Whimbrel	25L	60	Sherbrooke, Ont.	D'Anna
*Ruddy Turnstone	11F	1	Batavia	Kehlenbeck
"	22;31	3;10	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna; S&T O'Donnell
"	22	20	Morgan's Point, Ont.	D'Anna
"	22	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	25	4	Silver Creek	Watson
"	25	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
*Sanderling	25F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
"	30	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	22	8	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
"	25	1	Bismark, Ont.	D'Anna
"	30L	35	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Least Sandpiper	8F	2	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	8	Batavia	Kehlenbeck
"	14	30	Gouinlock's Pond	Morgante
White-r. Sandpiper	25	1	Silver Creek	Watson
"	25	1	Bismark, Ont.	D'Anna
"	30	3	Smithville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Pectoral Sandpiper	19L	2	Pomfret	Neveu
*Dunlin	11F	1	Batavia	Kehlenbeck
"	22	55	Morgan's Point, Ont.	D'Anna
"	25	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
*Short-b. Dowitcher	22F	2	Pomfret	Neveu et al
*Red-necked Phalarope	<u>23</u>	1	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg et al
Bonaparte's Gull	9	1	Gainesville	R&D Rosche
"	15	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>8</u>	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
"	<u>15</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	<u>15</u>	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	<u>23</u>	3	Olcott	D'Anna
Caspian Tern	30	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Common Tern	8	45	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Black Tern	8	7	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	9	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	13	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
*Black-billed Cuckoo	15F	3;1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.;Charlotte	Morgante et al;Rew
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	24F	1	Ward	Pitzrick
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	21	1	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
"	<u>29;30</u>	1;1	Charlotte	Budniewski; Rew
Common Nighthawk	12F	1	Hamburg	Rew
"	21	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	25	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Nighthawk	31	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	S&T O'Donnell
*Whip-poor-will	26	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
*Ruby-t. Hummingbird	4F	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	9	1	Yates	Morgante
"	31	9	Rushford	Rising et al
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	Point Gratiot	Watson, Benton
"	13	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Roberson
"	14,15	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	16	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Roberson
"	22	1	Windmill Point, Ont.	Skalicky
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	2	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick(BOS)
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14,15	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante
"	15	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
*Olive-s. Flycatcher	13F	1	Gainesville	R&D Rosche
"	22	1	Byng, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
*Eastern Wood-Pewee	12F	1	Williamsville Glen	Watson, Yoerg
"	13	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	18	1	Snyder	Klick
"	22	1	Pomfret	Neveu et al
"	23	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Clarence	G&D Rising
"	30	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
Acadian Flycatcher	19	5	Pomfret	Neveu
"	22	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	23	2	Hunter's Creek	Skalicky, Davis
"	28	2	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Chilton
*Alder Flycatcher	15F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	22	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	22	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	22	1	Shelby	Watson
*Willow Flycatcher	15F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
*Least Flycatcher	2F	1	Blasdell	D'Anna et al
"	3	1	Eagle	Watson, Schlacter
*Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	1F	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	2	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Eastern Kingbird	5	1	Westfield	Watson et al
"	6	1	Goat Island	Potter
"	6	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
*White-eyed Vireo	7F	1	Goat Island	Potter
Blue-headed Vireo	22	2	Goat Island	Roberson
"	30L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
*Yellow-thr. Vireo	3F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Chilton
"	9	4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Warbling Vireo	2F	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante et al
"	2F	1	Blasdell	D'Anna et al
"	2F	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
*Philadelphia Vireo	15F	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	23	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
*Red-eyed Vireo	6F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
"	6F;7	1;2	Goat Island	Roberson; Potter
Common Raven	8	1	Amity	M. Pitzrick
"	23	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	24	3	Ward	Pitzrick
*Bank Swallow	2F	2	Sheridan	D'Anna
"	8	60	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Barn Swallow	26	1000	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson
*Cliff Swallow	8F	8	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	8F	4	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	8F	6	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	8F	1	Amity	M. Pitzrick
"	16	4	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
Red-br. Nuthatch	7	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Carolina Wren	2,23	2,2	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	Snyder	Klick
"	15	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	23	1	Hunter's Creek	Skalicky, Davis
*Marsh Wren	1F	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	2	3	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Golden-cr. Kinglet	14	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	22	1L	Rock Point P.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	6	Alfred	Brooks
"	31	6	Ward	Brooks
*Veery	2F	1	Evangola S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	8	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
*Gray-cheeked Thrush	12F	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Chilton
"	28,29	1,1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	30	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Swainson's Thrush	7F;8	1;1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Yoerg; Klick
"	8	2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	31	1	Ward	Brooks
*Wood Thrush	1F	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
"	2	1	Evangola S.P.	D'Anna et al
*Gray Catbird	2F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	Snyder	Klick
Brown Thrasher	27	1	Goat Island	Roberson
American Pipit	8	50	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	60	Hartland	Morgante et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
American Pipet	25,26L	30,2	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
*Blue-winged Warbler	4F	1	Snyder	Klick
"	5	1	Point Gratiot	Watson
"	5	1	Westfield	Watson
"	5	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
*Golden-wing. Warbler	5F,7	1,1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	6	2	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	9	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rising, Hamilton
"	15	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante et al
"	22;29	1;2	Barre-Shelby	Watson; Andrlle, Roberson
*"Brewster's" Warbler	23	1	Hunter's Creek	Skalicky, Davis
*Tennessee Warbler	5F	1	Goat Island	Potter
"	5F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
*Orange-cr. Warbler	9F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
*Nashville Warbler	1F	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	2	1	Blasdell	D'Anna et al
*Northern Parula	7F	1	Goat Island	Potter; Roberson
"	7F,14	1,1	Williamsville Glen	Chilton
"	7F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	23	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
*Chestnut-s. Warbler	5F	1	Snyder	Klick
"	6	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Magnolia Warbler	5F	1	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
"	6	3	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	6	1	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
*Cape May Warbler	2F	1	Porter	Roberson, Welte
"	7	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	7;15	2;1	Goat Island	Potter; Morgante et al
"	11,12	1,1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	12	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	23	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
*Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	2F	1	Evangola S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	5	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	5	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
Blackburnian Warbler	3	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
*Yellow-thr. Warbler	15	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante, D'Anna et al
Pine Warbler	2	1	Blasdell	Potter et al
"	2	1	Evangola S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	4	3	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg
*Prairie Warbler	2F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Yoerg
"	6,8,16	1,2,1	Amity	V&M Pitzrick
"	15	1	Amherst	Chilton
"	16,29	2,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	30	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Davis, Skalicky



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Palm Warbler	1	7	Tifft N.P.	Skalicky
"	2	9	Evangola S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	15	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante et al
*Bay-breasted Warbler	6F	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Potter
"	7	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Blackpoll Warbler	5F,31	1,1	Snyder	Klick
"	11	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
*Cerulean Warbler	9F	4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
Black-and-white Warb.	2	3	Evangola S.P.	D'Anna et al
*American Redstart	5F	1	Point Gratiot	Watson
"	6	3	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
*Prothonotary Warbler	6F	1	<u>Tifft N.P.</u>	D'Anna et al
"	16	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
* <u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>	29	1	Allegany Indian Res.	D'Anna et al
*Ovenbird	2F	1	Point Gratiot	Potter
"	6	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	6	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	30	20	Bush Hill S.F.	Skalicky, Davis
Northern Waterthrush	1	2	Williamsville Glen	Klick
"	27	1	Wheatfield	Potter
"	29	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Andrle, Roberson
Louisiana Waterthrush	15	2	Attica	Morgante et al
"	23	2	Hunter's Creek	Skalicky, Davis
"	24	1	Amity	Pitzrick
* <u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	8	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante et al
"	9	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick et al
*Mourning Warbler	12F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	21	1	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Rising
*Common Yellowthroat	5F	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	6	1	Goat Island	Potter
"	6	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Potter
*Hooded Warbler	2F	1	Point Gratiot	Potter, D'Anna
"	5	1	Goat Island	Potter
*Wilson's Warbler	7F	1	Williamsville Glen	Chilton
"	8;23	1;1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna; S&T O'Donnell
"	8	2	Goat Island	Klick
*Canada Warbler	8F	1	Amity	M. Pitzrick
"	12	1	Williamsville Glen	Watson, Yoerg
*Scarlet Tanager	5F	1	Point Gratiot	Watson
"	8	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Vesper Sparrow	8	1	Bethany	Morgante
"	8	1	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	14,15	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante et al
*Grasshopper Sparrow	6F;17	2;2	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick; Davis, Koski

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Grasshopper Sparrow	8	1	Cambria	Potter
"	14,15	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante et al
"	21;28	1;2	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Rising; Chilton
*Henslow's Sparrow	15F;23	1;1	Somerset	Morgante et al; D'Anna
"	21	1	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Rising
Fox Sparrow	2	1	Evangola S.P.	D'Anna, Turisk
"	9L	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Lincoln's Sparrow	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	Skalicky
"	1F	1	Porter	Roberson
"	7	4	Point Gratiot	Neveu
"	23L	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
White-thr. Sparrow	22	5	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	30	3	Bush Hill S.F.	Skalicky, Davis
White-cr. Sparrow	3F	2	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	4	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson
Lapland Longspur	<u>2</u>	30	Oakfield	Seamans et al
"	<u>4,5,6L</u>	20,5,15	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	4F	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg
"	5	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	5	1	Westfield	Watson
"	5	2	Goat Island	Potter
"	5	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
* <u>Blue Grosbeak</u>	11	1	Bethany	Beattie
*Indigo Bunting	7F	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
"	7F	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	7F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Yoerg
"	7F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Roberson
*Bobolink	1F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante, D'Anna
"	1F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Rusty Blackbird	7	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
"	8L	4	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Common Grackle	28	2 fledglings	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
*Orchard Oriole	8F,15	1,1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	16	3	Port Weller, Ont.	Davis
"	22	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	<u>Allegany Indian Res.</u>	D'Anna
"	30	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Baltimore Oriole	1F	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	4	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Red Crossbill	4	3	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg
"	31	1	Ward	Brooks

Species, subspecies &amp; hybrids previously recorded ..... 173

Species, subspecies &amp; hybrids recorded this issue (including May Count) ..... 80

Total for year ..... 253



## The 63rd Buffalo Ornithological Society May Bird Count

DATE: May 16, 1999

COMPILERS: Jim Landau, Gail Seamans

### Weather Synopsis

provided by National Weather Service, Buffalo, NY

Sunrise: 5:51 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:32 PM EDT

Lake Temperatures: Erie 51F, Ontario 44F

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP.(F)	DEW PT.	HUMIDITY	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnt	Partly Cloudy	60	47	62	30.18 S	SE 6	no radar echoes
1 AM	Partly Cloudy	57	48	71	30.20 R	SW 8	
2 AM	Clear	57	46	66	30.20 S	S 8	
3 AM	Clear	57	43	59	30.20 S	S 8	
4 AM	Partly Cloudy	57	43	59	30.21 R	S 8	
5 AM	Mostly Cloudy	56	43	61	30.23 R	S 8	
6 AM	Mostly Cloudy	55	43	63	30.23 S	S 8	
7 AM	Partly Cloudy	54	43	66	30.24 R	S 8	
8 AM	Partly Sunny	60	42	51	30.26 R	S 9	
9 AM	Mostly Sunny	64	41	42	30.25 F	S10	
10 AM	Mostly Sunny	68	42	38	30.25 S	SSE 7	
11 AM	Mostly Sunny	70	43	37	30.24 F	SE 7	
12 PM	Sunny	71	43	36	30.22 F	E 5	
1 PM	Sunny	73	42	32	30.19 F	SE 7	
2 PM	Sunny	74	41	30	30.17 F	Variable 5	
3 PM	Sunny	75	43	31	30.15 F	Variable 5	
4 PM	Sunny	76	42	30	30.15 S	Calm	
5 PM	Mostly Sunny	77	43	30	30.14 F	Variable 3	
6 PM	Mostly Sunny	76	43	30	30.12 F	SW 7	
7 PM	Sunny	76	43	29	30.11 F	Calm	
8 PM	Fair	74	45	35	30.12 R	N 4	
9 PM	Partly Cloudy	70	46	42	30.12 S	NE 5	
10 PM	Clear	65	47	52	30.13 R	NE 3	
11 PM	Clear	63	47	55	30.14 R	SSW 6	

Daily Weather Summary:

Max Temp. 77

Min. Temp. 54

Precipitation 0

### Compilation

The following is a list of species seen on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers appear in parentheses. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** and **L** represent first and last dates for the spring migration; \* represents first record for the year.

## LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon	8		Blue-winged Teal	30	
Pied-billed Grebe	16		Northern Shoveler	4	(13)
Double-crested Cormorant	573		Northern Pintail	1	(8)
American Bittern	4	(18, 20)	Green-winged Teal	2	(8)
Least Bittern	2	(7, 10)	Canvasback	1	(26)
Great Blue Heron	307		Redhead	4	(10)
Great Egret	4	(9, 10)	Ring-necked Duck	2	(13)
Green Heron	56		Greater Scaup	1	(7)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	59		Lesser Scaup	30	
Turkey Vulture	623		scaup species	4	(4)
Canada Goose	4038		Oldsquaw	L 2	(4)
Mute Swan	2	(6, 25)	Common Goldeneye	3	(19)
Wood Duck	219		Hooded Merganser	40	
Gadwall	6	(10, 13)	Common Merganser	43	
American Wigeon	43		Red-breasted Merganser	89	
American Black Duck	11		Ruddy Duck	6	(10, 13)
Mallard	1041				

## OSPREYS - COOTS

Osprey	22		American Kestrel	67	
Bald Eagle	9		Peregrine Falcon	L 4	(11)
Northern Harrier	19		Ring-necked Pheasant	22	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	53		Ruffed Grouse	25	
Cooper's Hawk	11		Wild Turkey	113	
Red-shouldered Hawk	19		Sora	4	
Broad-winged Hawk	352		Common Moorhen	15	(5, 10, 18)
Red-tailed Hawk	197		American Coot	32	

## PLOVERS - TERNS

Black-bellied Plover	4	(7)	White-rumped Sandpiper	* F 1	(4)
Semipalmated Plover	* F 43		Pectoral Sandpiper	1	(25)
Killdeer	460		Common Snipe	1	(13)
Greater Yellowlegs	L 3	(6, 10, 16)	American Woodcock	5	(13, 17, 28)
Lesser Yellowlegs	16		Bonaparte's Gull	80	
Solitary Sandpiper	8		Ring-billed Gull	34227	
Spotted Sandpiper	89		Herring Gull	5110	
Upland Sandpiper	1	(5)	Great Black-backed Gull	34	
Ruddy Turnstone	11	(7, 13)	Caspian Tern	15	(5, 20)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	20	(8)	Common Tern	93	
Least Sandpiper	124		Black Tern	8	(10)

## DOVES - SWALLOWS

Rock Dove	866		Alder Flycatcher	4	
Mourning Dove	1493		Willow Flycatcher	22	
Black-billed Cuckoo	5		Least Flycatcher	84	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	* F 5		empidonax species	4	(20)
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	(3, 21, 22)	Eastern Phoebe	280	
Great Horned Owl	5		Great Crested Flycatcher	127	
Barred Owl	* 10		Eastern Kingbird	322	
Long-eared Owl	1	(26)	White-eyed Vireo	1	(11)
Common Nighthawk	3	(20, 23)	Yellow-throated Vireo	5	



Chimney Swift	170		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	168		
Belted Kingfisher	74		
Red-headed Woodpecker	13		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	82		
Yell.-bellied Sapsucker	63		
Downy Woodpecker	197		
Hairy Woodpecker	63		
Northern Flicker	226		
Pileated Woodpecker	28		
Eastern Wood Pewee	56		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	* F 1	(5)	
Acadian Flycatcher	* F 4	(14, 20)	

Blue-headed Vireo	63		
Warbling Vireo	185		
Philadelphia Vireo	3	(1, 21)	
Red-eyed Vireo	283		
Blue Jay	1290		
American Crow	2195		
Common Raven	17		
Horned Lark	30		
Purple Martin	422		
Tree Swallow	1479		
No. Rough-winged Swallow	323		
Bank Swallow	298		
Cliff Swallow	100		
Barn Swallow	1757		

## CHICKADEES - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	816		
Tufted Titmouse	81		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	29		
White-breasted Nuthatch	143		
Brown Creeper	8		
Carolina Wren	16		
House Wren	409		
Winter Wren	6	(17, 20, 24)	
Marsh Wren	23		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	20		

Eastern Bluebird	179		
Veery	58		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	(12, 20)	
Swainson's Thrush	19		
Hermit Thrush	9		
Wood Thrush	287		
American Robin	4881		
Gray Catbird	787		
Northern Mockingbird	23		
Brown Thrasher	34		
European Starling	3792		
American Pipit	38	(4, 13, 20)	
Cedar Waxwing	139		

## WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler	116		
Tennessee Warbler	28		
Nashville Warbler	17		
Northern Parula	8		
Yellow Warbler	1820		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	241		
Magnolia Warbler	107		
Cape May Warbler	5	(13)	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	47		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	145		
Black-throated Green Warbler	122		
Blackburnian Warbler	47		
Pine Warbler	5	(1, 4, 7)	
Prairie Warbler	6	(18, 28)	
Palm Warbler	L 5		

Bay-breasted Warbler	14		
Blackpoll Warbler	16		
Cerulean Warbler	5	(10, 24)	
Black-and-White Warbler	11		
American Redstart	257		
Ovenbird	129		
Northern Waterthrush	22		
Louisiana Waterthrush	5		
Mourning Warbler	20		
Common Yellowthroat	688		
Hooded Warbler	116		
Wilson's Warbler	8		
Canada Warbler	12		
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	(13)	
warbler species	5	(20)	

## TANAGERS - HOUSE SPARROWS

Scarlet Tanager	94		
Eastern Towhee	120		
Chipping Sparrow	719		
Field Sparrow	126		
Vesper Sparrow	7		

Northern Cardinal	714		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	442		
Indigo Bunting	202		
Bobolink	975		
Red-winged Blackbird	5928		

Savannah Sparrow	191		Eastern Meadowlark	215	
Grasshopper Sparrow	3	(13, 20)	Rusty Blackbird	L 10	(8, 14, 26)
Henslow's Sparrow	2	(5)	Common Grackle	2628	
Song Sparrow	1243		Brown-headed Cowbird	668	
Lincoln's Sparrow	6	(3, 7, 20)	Orchard Oriole	6	(2, 7)
Swamp Sparrow	145		Baltimore Oriole	912	
White-throated Sparrow	80		Purple Finch	147	
White-crowned Sparrow	114		House Finch	434	
sparrow species	14	(20)	American Goldfinch	1663	
Dark-eyed Junco	145		House Sparrow	1518	
			unidentified birds	30	(17)
Total Species Observed.....	197				
Total Individual Birds Observed...	96749				

### Notes from the 1999 May Bird Count

May Count highs for the past 10 years (1990 - 1999) were recorded for Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Blue-headed Vireo.

Notable low numbers for the same ten year period were recorded for European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, and Common Grackle.

Other May 1999 Count sightings of note were: Canvasback (1) last recorded in 1990 (1); Least Bittern (2) last recorded in 1993 (1); and Long-eared Owl (1) last recorded in 1994 (1).

Species not reported on this count: Dunlin for the first time since the 1951 count; Short-billed Dowitcher for the first time since the 1989 count; Golden-winged Warbler for the first time since 1989; Evening Grosbeak for the first time since 1975.

House Finch numbers (434) continue their noticeable drop from 1996.

OBSERVERS: (Compilers are printed in boldface)

Section 1: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Jim Wojewodzki, Terry Yonker.

Section 2: **Michael Davis**.

Section 3: Jerry & Sue Farrell, Ron & Sue Hacker, Betsy Potter, Sue Race, **Don Roberson**, John & Martha Welte.

Section 4: **William Watson**, Deborah Hovland.

Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, **Dick Christensen**, Peggy Christensen, Brendan Klick, Bob Lipp, Marion Smith.

Section 6: **Robert F. Andrie**, Edward Fuchs

Section 7: **Drew Campbell**, Marcy Foster, Barbara Henderson, Peter Yoerg.

Section 8: Matthew Kandefer, Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**.

Section 9: Betsy Potter, **Gerry Rising**, Stan Watkins.

Section 10: Debbie Brown, John Filor, Jocelyn Jones, **Morgan Jones**, Robert Wagner.

Section 11: Edward Berst, **Dennis Gralak**, Susan Gralak, Mitchell & Marjorie Harwitz, Jane Heyer, Margaret Stewart.

Section 12: Ann Bauer, Paul Fuhrman, **Tom Harper**, Mark Morgante, Mike Morgante, Marlene Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Donna Wieand.

Section 13: Doug Beattie, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Aron Kehlenbeck, Jr., Aron Kehlenbeck, Sr., Zeke Kehlenbeck, **Jane Mason**, Marc Mason, **Max Mason**, Dorothy Rosche, Richard Rosche, Don Thureau.



- Section 14: Ernie Baker, Ken Brandes, Joann Dobbler, Doug Happ, Erma Kern, Bob Leonard, Glenna Leous, Sue Saunders, **Barbara Walker**, Margaret Wooley.
- Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak, Art Rosche, Olga Rosche.
- Section 16: Thomas Connare, Marian Dornhaffer, Audrey Horbett, **Frances M. Rew**.
- Section 17: Tom Koopman, **Bert Schweigert**.
- Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Michael J. Desha, Marty Fay, Jim Landau, Karen Landau.
- Section 19: Lucille Bailey, Faye Clancy, **Alice Evans**, Lyle Hotchkiss, Janet Lang, Dora M. Lily, Marilyn & Philip Main, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Nicholson, John Raybuck, Michael Raybuck, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Schmit, Elaine Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Emmette Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson.
- Section 20: **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Phil Hanlon, Dale Loscher, Terry Mahoney, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Marty Sanden, Audrey Schafer, Doris Welch, Tom Welch.
- Section 21: Jamestown Audubon Society: Rosemary Angove, John Cheney, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Jessie Nelson, Linda O'Brien, Jean Pigman, Carol Roby, Bill Seleen, Kelly Suckow, Sue Suckow, **Bob Sundell**.
- Section 22: Jamestown Audubon Society: Len DeFrancisco, Melvin Freeborough, Sally Freeborough, Ranjit Laha, Harley Northrup, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**.
- Section 23: Jamestown Audubon Society: Virginia Anderson, Rosemary Angove, Len DeFrancisco, Ranjit Laha, Stephen Maggio, Carol Pearsons, Jean Pigman, Bruce J. Robinson, Bill Seleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**.
- Section 24: **Tim Baird**, Pat Bogan, Tom LeBlanc.
- Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Nancy Beattie, Stephen Eaton, Arlene Knittle, Jeff Reed.
- Section 26: Lou Bump, **Doris Burton**, Deborah Floyd, Frances C. Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann & Morris Scott, Bruce Smalley, Becky & John Stoehr.
- Section 27: Russ Allen, **Doris Burton**, Estella Cronauer, Audrey & George Dunham, Walt Franklin, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Claribel James, Helen Link, Wilma Sanford, Lillian Simons, Jake Strong, Shirley & Lee Windus, Fred & Pat Wygant.
- Section 28: Mallery & Mary Adams, Shawn Allen, Carol Behn, Warren Bouck, Donald & Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Betty Brown, Wayne Bruster, Debbie Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Carla Coch, Diane Converso, Jim Copenheaver, Paul & Cynthia Culley, Elsie Cushing, Mark Cushing, Luke Donius, Phyllis DuBreuil, Ann Eisenhardt, Peg & Jamie Eisenhardt, Peter & Terry Finlay, Keegan Fleming, John Gradoni, Elsie Kent, **Clarence Klingensmith**, Margaret Klingensmith, Mark Klingensmith, Cathy & Pete MacDonald, Marian McClure, Mike McKee, Alice Meyers, Mary Ormsby, Lenny Osgood, Lyle & Thelma Palmiter, Beverly Perry, Sean Phelan, Bob & Ann Pipal, Vivian Pitzrick, Evelyn, Dan & Nichole Ramsey, Dan Rase, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Helen Shear, Terah Soule, Audrey & Hal Spencer, Conner Stephens, Bruce & Wilma Taggart, Evelyn Thomas, Bea Thompson, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Betty Warek-Fowler, Mary Lu Wells, Suzanne Wood.

Total number of Observers: 258

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Landau  
May Count Compiler

## ERRATUM

*Prothonotary*, Vol. 65, No. 5: Report of the 1999 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count. The number of Rusty Blackbirds in Section 5 should read **859** not 71. This will affect all count data. If you would like revised data sheets please contact Mike Hamilton (881-6709).

## Summary of Hotline and Dial-a-Bird Activity - May 1999

May is certainly the region's main month for birding and Dial-a-Bird activity. 82 species were added to the 1999 list. Reports came from casual backyard observers to May Count and Big Day participants. In addition to the regular contributors, there are birders who recognize the annual migration peak, concentrate their efforts accordingly and report some very good results to Dial-a-Bird.

Mid-May reports included 32 warbler species, though no location exceeded 20 species. Susan McLeer, a frequent birder at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, reported a warbler fallout on the afternoon of May 12 that included a Yellow-throated Warbler plus 16 other species grouped in a single spot.

As the warblers peaked, the shorebirds began to arrive. In Ontario, several good shorebird reports came from the hamlet of Bismark on Highway 20 in the Town of West Lincoln, including a Red-necked Phalarope later in the month.

Almost every spring, Blue Grosbeak is reported at a feeder somewhere in the region the same week that Indigo Buntings arrive. Though open minded about the possibility, I censor these unconfirmed reports. Are any of these sightings valid? Maybe, since photographs of a Blue Grosbeak were provided to the compiler during May 1999. As active as the Society may be in its field work, our records represent just a slice of the birds that pass through the region.

David F. Suggs

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please welcome the following new Associate Members:

Whitney W. Mallam  
974 Ridge Road  
Lewiston, NY 14092  
754-8879

Sally Castren  
4256 Roxbury Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
633-7697

## BOS MEETINGS

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-4311).



Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

- Sept. 8: Members' Slide Night. Bright slides of your birding adventures to share.
- Sept. 27: Terry Yonker will present a program on gull identification.
- Oct. 13: Bob Andrle will treat us to a program on tropical birds. Annual meeting and election of officers.
- Oct. 24: Details in the next issue.
- Nov. 12: B.O.S. Banquet, see details below.
- Dec. 8: Our speaker will be Bob Budlinger, a former DEC employee and past president of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs.

### **BOS BANQUET**

**SAVE THIS DATE!** The five year banquet of the BOS (1929-1999) will be held on Friday, Nov. 12th at 5:30 PM (time is tentative) at the Protocol Restaurant, 6766 Transit Rd., Williamsville. The speaker will be Professor Ken Able, SUNY Albany. His topic will be migration and reminisces of his days as a BOS member. He is author/editor of "Gathering of Angels". Reservation information and directions will be forthcoming later this summer in the Prothonotary.

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### **FIELD TRIPS**

- Aug. 22: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you wish to meet us on the Canadian side, please contact the leader.
- Sept. 5. Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day walk for warblers. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820).
- Sept. 17-19 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at the Riverview Holiday Inn in Elmira, NY, hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. The Federation's Web Page can be found at: <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>
- Oct. 10: Sunday. B.O.S. October Bird Count. Compiler: TBA.

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

## **Revised B.O.S. Field Checklist**

The revised B.O.S. Field Checklist is now available. It reflects the most recent changes in taxonomy. Copies can be obtained at B.O.S. meetings, the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve.

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: ChasHal@AOL.com



## BOS May Count Section Data and Totals: May 16, 1999

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BOS May Count Section Data and Totals: May 16, 1999

Semi-palmated Sandpiper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Total	Sec
Least Sandpiper	16			28	1	17	5	31		3			10			1	5	2									5		124	12
White-rumped Sandpiper				1																									1	1
Pectoral Sandpiper																													1	1
Common Snipe																													1	1
American Woodcock													1																5	3
Bonaparte's Gull				1		74	2																						80	4
Ring-billed Gull	797	267	283	672	236	247	10420	15000	4250	21	288	28	20	201	37	428	3	13		924	68	22	3					34227	23	
Herring Gull	3	15	27	4		15	40	5000	1											3	1							1	5110	11
Great Black-backed Gull	5			1	2	5		11		1										9								34	7	
Caspian Tern					10															5								15	2	
Common Tern						2	47	22	2		20																	93	5	
Black Tern										8																		8	1	
D O V E S - S W A L L O W S																														
Rock Dove	51	3	42	8	6	5	20	20	13	12	75	17	34	27	11	31	23	24	144	61	52	7	33	13	19	39	12	64	866	28
Mourning Dove	41	8	124	67	37	26	39	14	3	93	37	33	138	79	16	28	15	34	133	105	39	75	62	7	33	35	35	137	1493	28
Black-billed Cuckoo																1				1								5	5	4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo										1		1		1						2									5	4
Eastern Screech-Owl			2																		1	1							4	3
Great Horned Owl			1										1								1					2			5	4
Barred Owl														1								2							10	5
Long-eared Owl																													1	1
Common Nighthawk																													3	2
Chimney Swift	4		2	9	3		15		1			2	5	2		7	1	6	11	16			2	21	2		2	25	170	20
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			3	2	2			1		1	2	5	12	15	1	1		20	9	13	5	2	3	6		3	13	49	168	21
Belted Kingfisher	8		4	4			2		1		2	4	3		4	1		3	9	6	3	5	4	1		5	2	3	74	20
Red-headed Woodpecker			3					2								2				6									13	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker			10	2	3	2		1	3	7	1	9	9	13	3	4			7	2	2	1	8			1		2	82	19
Yell.-bellied Sapsucker													2		1		2	1	4									20	63	14
Downy Woodpecker	7		6	2	2		8	5		6	4	6	9	22	8	5		3	19	12	13	8	7	2	3		8	24	197	24
Hairy Woodpecker			1	1				2	1			4	5	9	2	2		2	4	1	1	2	1			3	6	16	63	18
Northern Flicker	11	2	16	2	5	5	12	4	5	7	5	8	16	9	5	7	5	7	14	20	5	8	7	10	3	9	5	14	226	28
Pileated Woodpecker												2	4	2		1			3	1	2	2		1	1	2	2	5	28	13
Eastern Wood Pewee	2	3	3	1						2		2	8	4		1	1		1	7	7	1	6	3		3	1		56	18
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					1																							1	1	1
Acanadian Flycatcher														2						2									4	2
Alder Flycatcher																1		1											4	4
Willow Flycatcher																													22	10
Least Flycatcher	3	2	2		3		1			3	1	1	5	1		3	3	4		1	2	7	9	2	3	4		1	84	18
emulidomax species																				4								4	1	1
Eastern Phoebe	8		7	3	10	3	12	7	1	12	1	4	14	17	8	9	3	6	32	16	4	10	12	6	7	21	7	40	280	27
Great Crested Flycatcher	2		9	2	4	1	1	7		9	4	4	6	14	3	6	3	5	6	5	5	8	8	4		4	2	5	127	25
Eastern Kingbird	16	7	12	17	12	2	8	11	2	7	2	5	41	18	9	6	2	16	6	32	12	6	2	4	6	36	6	19	322	28
White-eyed Vireo											1																		1	1
Yellow-throated Vireo			1							2			1																5	4
Blue-headed Vireo	2	3	1	3	1		1	1			2				1	3	3	5		8		5			3			15	63	17
Warbling Vireo	12	11	7	3	1	12	8	30	14	7	8	1	16	7	4	8		2		10	5	3	13	2				1	185	23
Philadelphia Vireo	2																				1								3	2
Red-eyed Vireo	12	8	10	10	3	2	18	10	2	10	6	6	38	41	3	9	1	6	2	24	6	6	12	15	12	4	1	6	283	28
Blue Jay	21	4	67	18	34	5	15	16	5	8	16	8	52	56	13	24	8	11	110	126	27	408	34	5	13	32	34	120	1290	28
American Crow	34	14	73	49	35	10	30	15	10	49	132	35	153	79	44	105	81	49	186	223	71	104	112	22	65	113	62	240	2195	28
Common Raven																		1	4					1					17	4
Horned Lark	2			1		1		10		10		1	5																30	7
Purple Martin	6	8	2	1	25	54	50	45	16	16							75	3	7	38	18	58							422	16
Tree Swallow	16	16	26	43	73	75	30	23	11	99	87	23	106	38	20	34	12	90	76	44	25	47	23	36	39	208	21	138	1479	28
No. Rough-winged Swallow	15	9	17	31	41	11	50	15	8	1	6	3		3		32	2	1		39		24	2			3		10	323	21
Bank Swallow	11		24				23	2		20			7			20	82	2		56										



# BOS May Count Section Data and Totals: May 16, 1999

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Total	Sect		
Tufted Titmouse			3				1	3			2	3	3	15		2	2		9	7		3	2	2	3	4		3	13	81	18	
Red-breasted Nuthatch			1	3									3				1		7						1	2			11	29	8	
White-breasted Nuthatch	3		6	1		1				1	1	8	10	16	4	1	1	2	33	2	3	1	4	1	5	7	5	23	143	24	4	
Brown Creeper	1											2							2	1								2	8	5	5	
Carolina Wren	3						2	2								1						2	2					1	16	9	9	
House Wren	19	5	8	7	7	9	37	7		10	5	16	58	15	4	12	9	8	44	35	7	6	10		5	16	3	42	409	27	27	
Winter Wren																	1			1				4					6	3	3	
Marsh Wren						1	2			12	6																		23	5	5	
Golden-crowned Kinglet													3				1			3								7	14	4	4	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2		2	1	2		1			1	1	1								2					1				14	10	10	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	2	2	3			2	1				6	8	2	2	3	3	10	13	13	3	8	11	2	1	15	4	45	179	22	22	
Eastern Bluebird	2		9	5	10					4		1	13	4	2	1				5			7	10	1	2		1	58	17	17	
Veery			1	1	1		2			3	3	1	1							1									2	2	2	
Gray-checked Thrush											4																			19	8	8
Swainson's Thrush	3		4	3											1					2	1								9	6	6	
Hermit Thrush																														287	28	28
Wood Thrush	4	1	26	12	2	3	1	7		2	8	1	7	53	35	7	17	5	6	5	33	3	12	19	6	1	3	2	6	287	28	28
American Robin	159	36	304	247	225	113	165	45	20	235	79	115	369	168	85	305	86	112	229	568	126	180	132	35	85	170	78	410	4881	28	28	
Gray Catbird	25	12	63	35	15	6	27	6	8	25	49	16	105	35	19	34	21	9	27	86	15	16	38	20	12	18	14	31	787	28	28	
Northern Mockingbird	7	7	6				3																						23	4	4	
Brown Thrasher						1	5						5				1		1	6	5								34	11	11	
European Starling	155	28	246	218	138	86	200	40	25	124	126	124	315	64	58	170	181	134	127	248	83	114	141	37	75	167	87	281	3792	28	28	
American Pipit				3								4	2	4			6	3	38	20			39	2		10		8	139	13	13	
Cedar Waxwing	12		8				3																									
W A R B L E S																																
Blue-winged Warbler	2	1	9					2	1	3		3	28	6	2		3	4	4	13	4	1	8					8	116	19	19	
Tennessee Warbler		1	2					3	8		1	2	1						3			3							28	10	10	
Nashville Warbler	1		3	1			1	2	1		1		1				1											4	17	11	11	
Northern Parula		2	2	1																2									8	5	5	
Yellow Warbler	65	62	148	92	107	55	150	45	52	97	119	26	220	37	25	51	48	19	37	118	33	36	60	31	19	22	8	38	1820	28	28	
Least-sided Warbler	4	1	5			1	2	4	2	4	3		25	12	6	4	17	12	12	32	12	5	13	30	13	5	2	15	241	25	25	
Chia Warbler	3	1	14	5	3		4	2	1		15		5	2		1	5	2	2	14	1	2	1	5	5	1	1	12	107	24	24	
May Warbler													5																5	1	1	1
Throated Blue Warbler	2	3	9	1			1	1	4		6	1		2					3					13	1				47	13	13	
Low-rumped Warbler	16	2	24	11			3		1		7		6			1		3	36	10		4					3	17	145	16	16	
Black-throated Green Warbler	2		3	4				5			2		6	10			14	4	5	10	3	13	2	16	2		3	18	122	18	18	
Blackburnian Warbler	1		4						1		3		1				7	4		9		2		9	1			5	47	12	12	
Pine Warbler	1			2			2																						5	3	3	3
Prairie Warbler																													6	2	2	2
Palm Warbler		1	1	1																1									5	5	5	5
Bay-breasted Warbler	3		5	1							4							1											14	5	5	5
Blackpoll Warbler	1	4					1	2		1										4		3							16	7	7	7
Cerulean Warbler										1															4					5	2	2
Black-and-White Warbler		2					1													2		2								11	7	7
American Redstart	1		5	19	2		4	6	5	9	4	10	23	10	1	16		5	5	51	7	1	20	44	6	1	2	257	24	24	24	
Ovenbird			5	1				2		2			20	7			6	6	9	16	6	3	2	5	13	3	1	22	129	18	18	
Northern Waterthrush				1			1					1	2				9	4		1			1	2					22	9	9	9
Louisiana Waterthrush														1				1				1							5	4	4	
Mourning Warbler										1	1	2	2			2	2	7	3										20	8	8	
Common Yellowthroat	14																															



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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

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## THE MONTH: June, 1999

June featured summer in full force in Western New York as the mild, dry spring evolved into the warmest and driest June since 1995. There were two extended hot spells separated by cool weather at mid-month. The average temperature of  $68.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ . was  $2.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ . above normal, making it the eighth warmest June in 56 years of local record keeping. There were two extended periods of uncomfortably hot conditions, June 6-13 and June 21-28; the latter was accompanied by very high humidity as well. The mercury at Buffalo officially hit  $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ . on June 11 for the first time since August 1995, and then proceeded to repeat itself on June 12. The monthly maximum of  $91^{\circ}\text{F}$ . on June 27 was the warmest since July 15, 1995 when the mercury hit  $97^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The three  $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ . days in June matches the normal for the entire summer at Buffalo. The month was not all heat, however. A brief cool spell at mid-month included a new record minimum of  $41^{\circ}\text{F}$ . on June 16.

The lack of rainfall was the big story of the month. After a wet first two days, almost no rain fell during the next three weeks. The lack of soil moisture, already short from the dry spring, caused moderate drought conditions by mid-month. Some welcome heavy rains arrived during early morning thundershowers on June 28 and 29, somewhat easing the drought conditions in some areas. The official rainfall of 1.93 inches was only about 60% of normal, making this the fifth consecutive dry month. The three-month precipitation deficits across the area are now in the three inch range; the 12-month deficit is in the 8-12 inch range. Sunshine totalled 62% of the possible, somewhat less than normal. Lake Erie warmed to  $71^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at month's end, four degrees above normal and the warmest at this stage of the summer since 1987. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, NY as posted on the Internet).

Information about colonial water bird nesting efforts and the occurrence of some very rare species in the upper reaches of the Niagara River in the Buffalo vicinity were of interest this nesting season. At the Motor Island rookery at least 40 young Great Blue Herons were counted on June 8 by William Watson. He also counted a maximum of 13 adult Great Egrets on June 9; nests containing three young and four young were noted at the end of the month. Mark Kandel, a biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation reported a count of about 70 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests during the month.



A Snowy Egret joined the crowd for a few days, making this about the fifth consecutive year that this species has been observed at that location at that time of the year. Even better was the observation and careful documentation of a Tricolored Heron in the area from June 2-12, about the fifth record for the B.O.S. territory. This may have been the same individual that was reported from the Tifft Nature Preserve at the end of May. A Little Blue Heron was also thought to be in the area, but little definite information has come to light.

When discussing colonial nesting water birds in the Buffalo area, the Double-crested Cormorant must also be included. The species attempted to nest on both Motor and Strawberry Islands where seven nests were reported on each. All of these nests were eventually proven to be unsuccessful. However, some 110 individuals and 35 nests containing several young were on the Reef Lighthouse in the Niagara River above the Peace Bridge. In the same area some 35-40 pairs of Common Terns were thought to be nesting on one of the isolated sections of the old Buffalo Harbor breakwall.

The Osprey nest at Ring-neck Marsh, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, contained two young during the last week of the month. Elsewhere, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation personnel reported nine active Osprey nests along the Allegheny River next to Allegany State Park where the young were to be banded on or about June 20. There were two active Bald Eagle nests, and possibly a third, in the same area. One nest contained a young male and a young female that were banded on May 3; the other nest contained two males that were banded on May 20.

Single Ospreys and Bald Eagles were reported from widespread sites in the region. Especially interesting was the report of an eagle from Attica Reservoir in Wyoming County where there are reports from 1998 and in years past, mostly by local fishermen. There is a good possibility that nesting birds could be found in this relatively isolated region sometime in the future.

Other interesting birds associated with water habitats included eleven Trumpeter Swans on Windmill Marsh in the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge that possessed yellow neck collars bearing letters and numbers "R11, R23, and R26". At present it is not known from whence these individuals came; all Canadian birds possess wing tags, rather than neck bands. The June 5 date for the prairie-nesting Canvasback was several weeks later than the average departure date for the region.

Probably the most interesting land bird for the month of June was the single Western Kingbird that frequented Allegany State Park during the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage on June 5. It was well documented and apparently seen by a host of Pilgrimage participants. This is only the second spring record for the region, the first being also in June only a year ago; autumn individuals, when it is most expected, have occurred on seven occasions in the past 35 years.

Two "Brewster's" Warblers, the more common of the two hybrids produced by the interbreeding of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, were observed in the Town of Pendleton in the same area where several Blue-winged Warblers and Golden-winged Warblers were noted on the same day. The East Otto, Cattaraugus County record of a Pine Warbler is a first for that locality in the nesting season. The Prairie Warbler population in Allegany County seemed very healthy judging from the records below. A rare Worm-eating Warbler was well documented in these pages for the month of May from the Allegheny Indian Reservation. It is most probably the same individual that was reported on three occasions during June this year and in 1998 on the same steep hillside, obviously a singing male on territory. A mate or nest was not found this year but a first nesting record for B.O.S. territory might be in the cards for a future year from this area.

One of the two singing male Clay-colored Sparrows that frequented the usual Pingrey Road site in the Town of Andover in Allegany County, was associating with a Chipping Sparrow on June 12.

Lastly, a postscript to my remarks in the April 1999 column concerning Sandhill Cranes is in order. For the first time in one hundred years cranes have nested in Nebraska this year. In early June a nest containing one



young (called a "colt") was found on state-owned lands in the Central Nebraska Rainwater Basin area. A second nest containing two colts was located on federally owned property in the same area. This writer is very familiar with the habitat conditions in that area; they are not too unlike conditions in our B.O.S. territory at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge/State Wildlife Management Area wetlands, not to mention the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge complex a short distance to the east. This being so, the writer believes that nesting in Western New York in the near future is well within reason. E.H. Eaton (*Birds of New York*, N.Y. State Museum, Albany, 1910, p. 269) comments that the bird inhabited the State in colonial times. Perhaps a return of this spectacular bird is imminent!

Richard C. Rosche

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	10	7 yg	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	2,9	71,15	Strawberry Island	Watson
"	5,9,19	52,49,27	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	6,26	292,212	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Great Blue Heron	8	40 yg.	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Great Egret	1-30	5 max.	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5,9,11	6,13,7	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	6	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	27,30	3,4 yg.	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
* <u>Snowy Egret</u>	8,12	1,1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	12	1	Strawberry Island	Culumovic
* <u>Tricolored Heron</u>	2	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	12	1	Strawberry Island	Culumovic
"	12	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Burch
Black-cr. Night-Heron	21	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Andrle
"	30	7 yg.	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Mute Swan	12	2 ad.	Olcott	D'Anna, Potter
Gadwall	11	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Hess
"	23	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson et al
American Wigeon	12	2	Strawberry Island	Culumovic

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
American Wigeon	26	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Northern Shoveler	10	3 ad., 5 yg.	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Canvasback	5	1	Buffalo River	Morgante
Redhead	23	8	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
Common Merganser	6	4	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	19	1	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
Osprey	10,23	1,2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	19	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Bald Eagle	5	4	Allegany S.P.	Klick
"	19	1ad + 1imm.	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1 imm.	Zoar Valley	Andrle
"	20;23	1 imm.; 2 yg.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Watson et al
"	20	1 ad.	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg
Northern Goshawk	5	1	<u>Eagle</u>	Watson et al
Peregrine Falcon	24	2 ad.	Buffalo	Morgante
Virginia Rail	26	2	Hanover	Neveu
Common Moorhen	23	8 yg.	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
American Coot	23	3 yg.	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
Upland Sandpiper	6	1	Colden	Landau
Great Black-b. Gull	26	16	Niagara Falls	Watson
Caspian Tern	12	2	Olcott	D'Anna, Potter
Black Tern	23	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
"	27	6	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg
"	27	7	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
Long-eared Owl	25	4	Hamburg	Andrle et al
Common Nighthawk	9	1;1	Buffalo	Hess; Davis
Whip-poor-will	18	6	Wainfleet, Ont.	Klick
Red-headed Wdpkr.	20	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	26,29	1,3	Point Gratiot	Pitzrick, Spencer
"	27	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	11	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Davis
Olive-s. Flycatcher	4,6	1,1	Allegany S.P.	Klick
"	10L	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	P. O'Donnell
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	7	1	Wheeler's Gulf	Neveu
Acadian Flycatcher	13	2	Chestnut Ridge Park	Klick
"	13	4	Deer Lick Sanctuary	Davis
"	19	3	Collins	Potter, D'Anna
* <u>Western Kingbird</u>	5	1	Allegany S.P.	Gardner
Common Raven	1-30	2	Amity	Pitzrick
"	6,11,14	2,1,1	Andover	Brooks
"	16;22	1;1	Alfred	Brooks; Klick
Cliff Swallow	19	6	Alexander	Morgante, Rising
Carolina Wren	15	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	20	1	Lancaster	Morgante



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Golden-cr. Kinglet	5,12,24	2,1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"		5	Ward	Brooks
"	21,26	2,2	West Almond	Brooks
"	23	1	Ossian	Brooks
"	23	3	Almond	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	10	2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	P. O'Donnell
Swainson's Thrush	2L	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Northern Mockingbird	7	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Brown Thrasher	4	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	22	1	Ward	Watson
Blue-winged Warbler	12	2	Pendleton	Sowinski, Klick
Golden-wing. Warbler	1	4	Pendleton	Sowinski, Klick
"Brewster's Warbler"	6	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg
"	12	2	Pendleton	Sowinski, Klick
Nashville Warbler	1	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	1,4,12,20	1,1,1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	5	1	Allegany S.P.	Klick
Northern Parula	5	1	Allegany S.P.	Klick
Pine Warbler	19	1	East Otto S.F.	D'Anna
Prairie Warbler	4,15,30	2,2,2	Amity	Pitzrick
"	4,9,12,24	2,3,4,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	10,13;22;28	1,3;6;6	Andover	Brooks; Klick; Yoerg
"	21;25	4;1	Grove	Brooks;Wagner
"	23	1	Burns	Brooks
Cerulean Warbler	19	1	Alexander	Morgante, Rising
Northern Waterthrush	21,26	1,2	Grove	Wagner
"	23	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	23	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson et al
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	3	Hunter's Creek	Klick
Mourning Warbler	16	1	Lancaster	Morgante
*Clay-colored Sparrow	11	2	Andover	Brooks
Vesper Sparrow	12	1	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	18,24	1,1	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	6-14	1	Andover	Brooks
"	10,23	2,1	Clarence	Watson et al
"	21	2	Grove	Brooks
"	23	2	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Klick
"	30	1	Granger	Brooks
Henslow's Sparrow	13	3	Somerset	P. O'Donnell
"	21	2	Grove	Brooks
"	22,27	1,2	Clarence	Yoerg
"	30	1	Granger	Brooks
White-thr. Sparrow	5,12,19,20	6,4,4,4	Alfred	Brooks
"	21	3	Birdsall	Brooks

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
White-thr. Sparrow	23	1	Almond	Brooks
"	26	2	West Almond	Brooks
Red Crossbill	5,24	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	7,15	3,2	Ward	Brooks
"	21	2	Grove	Brooks
"	23	2	Almond	Brooks

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	253
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue .....	4
Total for year .....	257

### Noteworthy Records Database CD-ROM

With a grant from the McVey-Axtell fund, I have purchased and installed a Compact Disk Recorder (CDR) on my home computer. This device is used to copy computer files to compact disks, which have a storage capacity of over 600 megabytes. CD storage is magnitudes beyond the floppy disk, which has space for only 1.4 megabytes. The CDR will enable copies of the B.O.S. *Noteworthy Records Database* to easily be shared with B.O.S. members.

In order to utilize a database file, database software is required, just like word processor or spreadsheet files need their corresponding software. Files can be copied to a CD, but copying commercial software is illegal, therefore anyone who would like to use the database file will need to choose a database software. The *Noteworthy Records* have been compiled in Borland *Paradox 4.0 for DOS*, but the file may be exported to many different software formats. The records file contains over 60,000 lines and is about 13 megabytes in size, so one CD will have the capacity for several different formats to be included. Two well-known databases are *Dbase* and *Microsoft Access*. I have been searching for a software application titled *Paradox Runtime 4.0 for DOS*, which allows custom designed Paradox programs to be executed without requiring the entire licensed database software. *Runtime* is not readily available anymore, but may be found in discontinued software sales. If anyone has this program or finds it available, please let me know. I would then write an application that could be freely distributed with the CD. An alternative to purchasing commercial database software may be to search the Internet for public domain database software. Spreadsheet software is more common and better understood than databases, but is limited in the length, or the number of rows or records, that may be stored in a file.

Since the information in the database has been previously published in *The Prothonotary*, the CD contents should also be considered property of the B.O.S. Users of this data must credit the B.O.S. in any publication and redistribution of the data should not be allowed without Society permission. Still interested? To get started or if there are readers with alternate suggestions or corrections, please contact me.

David F. Suggs

### FALL HAWKWATCHING AT PORT BURWELL AND HAWK CLIFF, ONTARIO

Dave Martin is in a group of hawkwatchers searching for a replacement for long-cherished Hawk Cliff, located on the shore of Lake Erie south of St. Thomas, Ont., 150 miles west of Buffalo. Dave says some St. Thomas birders still go there because it is close to town. The road is open but the poplar trees planted along it now are seriously impeding the view. There are no longer any organized activities there.



The proposed successor is at Port Burwell, 20 miles east on the lake shore. A two-year comparison with Hawk Cliff showed the same variety and about the same number of hawks. However some hawk flights coming in from the northeast may strike the shoreline west of Burwell and be more numerous at Hawk Cliff (or west of there for that matter). For example, a stunning 12 Golden Eagles passed Port Burwell October 29, 1998 as Jim Landau and I watched; later we heard of nearly 40 at Hawk Cliff.

Port Burwell has an advantage in other birding opportunities on-site; gulls, ducks and shorebirds on the long beach and warblers and sparrows in the nearby woods and cattail marshes of Port Burwell Provincial Park, plus camping and restroom facilities. The entrance fee is \$5.00 Canadian per car.

This season the park expects to attract birders with six morning hawkwatches at the west end of the picnic grounds, parking lot 5. These will be from 9:30 a.m. until noon, chaired by Dave Martin. The dates are Sept 11 (Sat), Sept 18 (Sat), Sept 26 (Sun), Oct 2 (Sat), Oct 3 (Sun), and Oct 10 (Sun).

To reach this area, take Route 19 south from Tilsonberg into the village of Port Burwell. At the "Park" sign, turn right across the Otter Creek bridge. At about 0.2 mile a second sign directs you left to the park, a paved road. Continue past the park entrance to a grassy field on the left. Being on the bank of the creek, Martin calls this the "harbor" site. It's free and has excellent open viewing in all directions. It can be better than in the picnic grounds, the entrance to which is directly across the road. Osprey may fly down Otter Creek to harass the gulls on the nearby beach.

Bill Burch

### **WHIP-POOR-WILL TRIP, JUNE 4, 1999**

For the ninth year of this field trip, 17 persons took part, ten of which were repeats. Among the latter were Ray and Chris Budniewski, from Forrestville, N.Y. The dinner at the Lotus Garden in Pt. Colborne, Ont., allowed new members to talk with old and to greet two Canadians, Helen Sherk and Bob Chambers. Outside the restaurant we saw cormorants, a Red-tailed Hawk and two gull species.

A mile west of town we had time to stop in the meadows of Minor Road and find Savannah and Song Sparrows, Horned Lark, Eastern Kingbird, Bobolink, Killdeer, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Mallards, Canada Geese, and Mourning Dove.

On Wilson Road, four miles west of Pt. Colborne, we slowly drove the mile to the intersecting road, pausing to hear Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Veery. By 9:03 p.m. we were standing on the quiet road, enjoying the sunset and listening to Black-billed Cuckoo, Swamp Sparrow, American Robin, House Wren, Great-crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Towhee, and the imperturbable Green Frogs. Overhead flew Barn Swallow, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Wood Duck.

The Whip-poor-wills began calling at 9:17 in the Wainfleet Bog to the east. At times as many as five could be heard; at 9:30 one flew over our heads and into the Bog. By 9:40 the calling was diminishing and as we left at 10:00, there was a faint call in the distance.

There is some question as to the best date for hearing the "whips". This was checked out two weeks later (June 18) by Brendan Klick and Richard Sowinski. Calling started at 9:40 p.m. and five or six could be heard at one time. Playing of a tape brought one overhead close enough to reveal the white in the tail. Another landed in the road, visible in the flashlight beam. It appears that the later date was as good as the earlier, and that playing a tape brings them in. It should be cautioned that this is a lonely road at night; when a strange car parked near him, Brendan became uneasy and realized it was safer to be here with a group.

Bill Burch

## BOS MEETINGS

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-4311).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

- Sept 8: Members' slide night. There will be a meeting of the Banquet Committee at 6:15, prior to the regular meeting. Please be prompt.
- Sept. 27: Terry Yonker will present a program on gull identification.
- Oct. 13: Bob Andrie will present "Adventures in the Tropics"- a Poster and slide program on studies of birds, other animals and plant life from lowland rainforests to mountain cloud forests and lofty volcanoes in Latin American.. Annual meeting and election of officers.
- Oct. 24: Details in the next issue.
- Nov. 12: B.O.S. Banquet, see details below.
- Dec. 8: Our speaker will be Bob Budlinger, a former DEC employee and past president of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs.

## BOS BANQUET

**SAVE THIS DATE!** The five year banquet of the B.O.S. (1929-1999) will be held on Friday, Nov. 12th at 5:30 PM (time is tentative) at the Protocol Restaurant, 6766 Transit Rd., Williamsville. The speaker will be Professor Ken Able, SUNY Albany. His topic will be migration and reminisces of his days as a B.O.S. member. He is author/editor of "Gathering of Angels". Reservation information and directions will be forthcoming later in the Prothonotary.

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## E-mail Directory

Mike Morgante is compiling a directory of B.O.S. members' e-mail addresses. This will be distributed at the banquet. If you wish to be included, e-mail Mike at: Morgmmm@AOL.com and type "BOS" in the subject line.



## FIELD TRIPS

- Sept. 5. Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day walk for warblers. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820).
- Sept. 17-19 The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at the Riverview Holiday Inn in Elmira, NY, hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. The Federation's Web Page can be found at: <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>
- Sept.-Oct. Hawk watching at Port Burwell, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Erie, 130 mi. west of Buffalo. B.O.S. watchers expect to go there on opportune days. See the article in this issue. Contact Bill Burch (773-3690).
- Oct. 10: Sunday. B.O.S. October Bird Count. Compiler: TBA.
- Oct. 24: Sunday. Iroquois N.W.R. and Batavia WWTP. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Tanning Bed. 0.1 mile east of Main and Transit on the south side of Main Street. Leader: Gail Seamans (at home - 762-4321).
- Oct. 30: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain of eastern Niagara and Orleans counties. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Wright's Corners on Rt. 78 at Tops market just north of the Rt. 104 intersection. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Oct. 31: Sunday. End of Daylight Savings Time, set clocks back one hour.
- Nov. 12: Friday. B.O.S. Banquet.
- Nov. 21: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester G.O.S. for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of the G.O.S. and Bob Brock of the B.O.S. (876-5862).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

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For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: ChasHal@AOL.com

**Revised B.O.S. Field Checklist**

The revised B.O.S. Field Checklist is now available. It reflects the most recent changes in taxonomy. Copies can be obtained at B.O.S. meetings, the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve.





## JOIN IN OUR SECOND BREEDING BIRD ATLAS!

In the early 1980's, New York was one of the first states to do an Atlas project, mapping the breeding distribution of its birds. Now it is time for New York to repeat the Atlas in order to learn how breeding bird distribution has changed.

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs is working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell's Department of Natural Resources, and the Lab of Ornithology on this huge project.

The state has been divided into about 5300 blocks, each about 10 square miles (25 square kilometers). Our goal is to send a birder into every one of those blocks over a five year period, beginning in spring 2000. This will require many field workers (over 4000 participated last time!)

**Your help is needed!!** Field observers will visit various habitats within assigned blocks and will record evidence of breeding for as many species as possible. Each will be provided with instructions, field cards and maps, and asked to use specific criteria to rate each species as a possible, probable, or confirmed breeder.

If you want to participate, contact your Regional Coordinator for more information:

### **Niagara Frontier Region 1**

Richard C. Rosche  
110 Maple Rd.  
East Aurora, NY 14052-1720  
Phone: 716-652-8409  
email: drosche@juno.com  
(prefers email communication first)

### **Genesee Region 2**

Robert Spahn  
716 High Tower Way  
Wester, NY 14580-2514  
Phone: 716-671-5690  
email: KHVM75@prodigy.com

### **Finger Lakes Region 3**

Bard Prentiss  
P.O. Box 283  
Dryden, NY 13053  
Phone: 607-844-4691  
email: prentissb@snycorva.cortland.edu

### **Susquehanna Region 4**

Chad Covey  
49 S. Main St.  
New Berlin, NY 13411  
Home phone: 607-847-6522  
Work phone: 607-753-3095 X 201

### **Oneida Basin Region 5**

Dorothy W. Crumb  
3983 Gates Road  
Jamesville, NY 13078  
Phone: 315-682-5420  
email: dwcrumb@a-znet.com

or

Bill Purcell  
281 Baum Road  
Hastings, NY 13076  
Phone: 315-668-2871  
email: wpurcell@dreamscape.com

### **St. Lawrence Region 6**

Bob Long  
Box 206  
Pompey, NY 13138  
Phone: 315-677-9840  
email: rlongmd@AOL.com

### **Adirondack-Champlain Region 7**

John M. C. Peterson  
Discovery Farm, RR 1. Box 230  
Elizabethtown, NY 12932  
Phone: 518-873-2052

### **Hudson-Mohawk Region 8**

Jane Graves  
133 York Ave.  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-2533  
Home phone: 518-587-8992 (before 6 pm)  
email: jgraves@skimore.edu  
(email is preferred contact)

### **Hudson-Delaware Region 9**

Michael Bochnik  
Home address: 86 Empire Street  
Yonkers, NY 10704  
Home phone: 914-237-9331  
Work phone: 914-785-3840  
Home email:  
76652.3224@compuserve.com  
Work email: michael.bochnik@cibasc.com

### **Marine Region 10**

Ken Feustel  
41 Belton Road  
Babylon, NY 11702  
Phone: 516-669-0951  
email: feustel@mindspring.com

Or write to: Breeding Bird Atlas Project Coordinator, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation,  
Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, NY 12054

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

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## THE MONTH: July, 1999

The warm and dry conditions of the summer of 1999 continued in earnest during July in the Niagara Frontier Region. The average temperature of 74.3° F. was 3.2° F. above the long term average. July 1999 will be remembered as the third warmest in the 56 years of record keeping at the local airport. Fourteen days saw high temperatures of at least 86° F. and two topped 90° F. Some suburban areas saw as many as ten days reach 90° F. There were only six days when the maximum temperature failed to reach 80° F. The warm temperatures were also accompanied by frequent humid spells that resulted in long spells of uncomfortable weather. The big story of the month was the lack of rain and the worsening drought. Only one inch of rain fell during the entire month at Buffalo, making this the fifth driest July on record. Although thunderstorms produced more rain north and south of Buffalo, the area as a whole remained very dry. July was the eleventh of the past 12 months with below normal precipitation (except January 1999). The 12-month deficit beginning in August 1998 is now at 11.89", which is about one-third of the annual total. Warm temperatures and abundant sunshine enabled Lake Erie waters to warm to 77° F. by the end of the month, the warmest in July since 1987 and at any time since the 78° F. reading in August 1995. (Buffalo meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet).

The "bird-of-the-month" that caused the most excitement among most local field observers had to be the breeding plumaged Red-throated Loon that appeared unexpectedly on the Niagara River at Fort Erie, Ontario from July 12 and at least through the 18th, when many birders from both sides of the border were able to easily locate and study it at fairly close range. From whence it came will never be known. This bird is most common on Lake Ontario as a transient with very few historical records for mid-summer anywhere in the B.O.S. territory. Less interesting but also significant were the mid-summer records of a male Greater Scaup on Lake Erie at Morgan's Point, Ontario and four Oldsquaw viewed from Rock Point Provincial Park, Ontario.

One is led to wonder if the above extralimital occurrences are a reflection of the drought conditions that have been prevalent in the Canadian north this year. The Great Lakes with their Zebra Mussels being replaced by a new alien invader, the Quagga Mussel, are at the lowest levels in the memory of many individuals, although those of us who birded the Canadian shore of Lake Erie in the 1950's and early 1960's remember lower



levels and decaying algae that massed at the waterlines. The same drought conditions prevalent in the north country with its resulting lower insect populations might also explain why the extremely early autumn transient Olive-sided Flycatchers noted at Bond Lake in Niagara County on July 28 were forced to head south to more favorable climes. Internet sources indicated even more flycatchers being reported in more southern locales within a week after our July 28 records.

The nesting season was generally a favorable one for most passerine species. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was feeding young in a tree cavity at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. A family group of four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was noted on the south shore of Lake Erie at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek. An Allegany County Prairie Warbler nest was described by Vivian Pitzrick as follows: "There were three eggs in the nest on my study plot north of Amity Lake when I found it on July 12th and again on the 19th, but on the 21st the eggs had hatched. The nestlings were still there the 26th but had left the intact nest a week later. The study plot, 3.8 miles north of Scio, is an abandoned upland pasture of nearly 20 acres with saplings and brush at the perimeter and various grasses, goldenrod, hawthorn, and Gray-barked Dogwood in the central open area. The nest was at elevation 1725 feet, close to a 15-foot soft maple sapling at one edge of a thick clump of dogwood covering an area of about 25 feet in diameter with an eight-foot hawthorn at the opposite edge. At one and a half feet up in a small dogwood and of silky plant fibers and fine dry grasses, the baseball-sized nest had a bulging rim that made the opening actually smaller than the inside directly below. This narrowed entrance nearly concealed the eggs and later the nestlings when the adult was away."

The mystery of the origin of the neck-collared Trumpeter Swans that frequented Windmill Marsh at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge this summer has apparently been solved, as per an article that appeared in the May/June 1999 issue of the *Conservation Comments*, published by the New York State Conservation Council. These birds, introduced by the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project, wintered on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay after being led there from Western New York by an ultra-light aircraft last autumn. In March they became active and it was hoped that they would begin their migration northward. Such was not the case, however. Later in March, 13 of the swans were recaptured and trucked north and released in Windmill Marsh.

Official 1999 totals for the nesting colonial waterbirds on Motor Island in the Niagara River, as per Mark Kandel, biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), are as follows: Great Blue Heron-40 nests, Great Egret-7 nests, and Black-crowned Night-Heron-38 nests. Thirty-four Canada Goose nests were also found on Motor Island. Seven Double-crested Cormorant nests were destroyed. On nearby Strawberry Island a maximum of 1386 Ring-billed Gull nests were counted; there were no Herring Gull nests in 1999, although two were found in 1998. Also at Strawberry Island, Canada Geese nested as well as seven pairs of cormorants; the nests of the latter were abandoned by the adults.

The well documented Peregrine Falcon nest on the Statler building in downtown Buffalo produced three nestlings, two females and a male, all of which successfully fledged and were seen by many downtown visitors within a week or so thereafter. Although the actual nesting site was not located this year, apparently four Peregrine Falcons were successfully fledged in the Niagara Falls region. Among the larger birds of prey, Mr. Tom Jurczak, biologist with the NYSDEC at Olean, reported that 16 Osprey young fledged from nine active nests around the Allegany Reservoir in Cattaraugus County. Two Bald Eagle nests in the same area produced two young each, all of which fledged and were banded. Another Bald Eagle nest along Cattaraugus Creek upstream from the New York State Thruway, produced one young which was also banded. The only other Osprey and Bald Eagle nests in B.O.S. territory at the current time are the well documented ones at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.

Richard C. Rosche



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	<u>12</u>	1	<u>Fort Erie, Ont.</u>	Burch, Galas
"	<u>12,15,18</u>	1	<u>Fort Erie, Ont.</u>	Klick et al
"	<u>12,15</u>	1	<u>Fort Erie, Ont.</u>	Watson et al
Pied-billed Grebe	19	16	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson et al
D.-crested Cormorant	7,21	110,176	Buffalo	Watson
"	10,18	8,9	Batavia WWTP	Seamans et al
"	11,12,26	185,240,459	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Great Blue Heron	14	131	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
Great Egret	1;29	2;24	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick; Watson et al
"	8-31	2 max.	Tonawanda	Hess
"	10,20,23	9,9,2+6 yg.	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	31	2	Pomfret	Neveu
Black-cr. Night-Heron	29	4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
"	31	1	Pomfret	Neveu
Gadwall	11	7	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Wigeon	12	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	25	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Northern Shoveler	10;11	2;4	Batavia WWTP	Seamans; Galas et al
Green-winged Teal	1	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Yoerg
"	11	2	Batavia WWTP	Galas et al
Ring-necked Duck	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Galas et al
Greater Scaup	<u>22</u>	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
Lesser Scaup	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Scaup species	31	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Oldsquaw	<u>31</u>	4	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante
Hooded Merganser	10,18	12,15	Batavia WWTP	Seamans et al
Red-br. Merganser	13	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	15;31	6;2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick; Skalicky
"	31	1	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante, Vallone
Common Merganser	7,15	6,5	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	11	4	Niagara Falls	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Ruddy Duck	10,18	8,5	Batavia WWTP	Seamans et al
Osprey	1,2	2,2	Allegany S.P.	Hess
"	3;4	2;4	Allegheny Reservoir	Hess; Yoerg
"	18	2 ad., 3 yg.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Seamans, Fox
"	21	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	22	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Sowinski
Bald Eagle	4	1 ad.	South Valley	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	1 im.	Fredonia	Neveu
"	18	1 juv.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Seamans, Fox
"	19	1 ad., 1 yg.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas, Watson
"	23	1 ad.	Attica Reservoir	Sturm
"	29	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
Black-bellied Plover	22F	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick, Sowinski
Semipalmated Plover	12F	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	15	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	10F	1	Bismark, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	1F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Yoerg
"	7;15	8;34	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	8	3	Pomfret	Neveu
Solitary Sandpiper	11F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
"	11F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Skalicky
"	20	16	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle, Brock
*Willet	31	1	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante, Vallone
Spotted Sandpiper	16	60	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky
Upland Sandpiper	18	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Seamans et al
Ruddy Turnstone	22F;31	1;2	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; Morgante
Sanderling	15F;31	1;2	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; Morgante
"	31	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante, Vallone
Semipalm. Sandpiper	10F	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Least Sandpiper	1F	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Yoerg
"	8,10	4,20	Silver Creek	Neveu
Pectoral Sandpiper	10F	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	31	5	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante, Vallone
*Stilt Sandpiper	31F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante, Vallone
Short-b. Dowitcher	7F,12	2,2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	7F	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson
"	10	2	Pomfret	Neveu
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	12,13	2,12	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	14	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	20	40	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle, Brock



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Snipe	31	4	Burgeson N.P.	Yoerg
*Wilson's Phalarope	20F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Andrle et al
Bonaparte's Gull	7;31	18;60	Rock Point P.P.	Watson; Morgante
"	18	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans, Fox
Caspian Tern	8	4	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	17	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	31	1	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante
Common Tern	31	250	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Forster's Tern	<u>10</u>	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna
Black Tern	1	6	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg, Klick
"	19	3	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson et al
"	19	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson et al
"	21-31	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Watson et al
Common Nighthawk	24,29	1,1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	10;31	1;1	Windmill Point, Ont.	D'Anna; Morgante
"	17,31	1,2	Ft. Erie (Kraft Rd.)	Morgante
"	18	1	Smithville WWTP	S&T O'Donnell
"	20	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle, Brock
"	23	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Schlacter
Olive-s. Flycatcher	<u>28</u>	2	Bond Lake Park	Brock et al
"	<u>28</u>	1	Bond Lake Park	Galas, Watson
Acadian Flycatcher	19;23	1;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas; Klick
"	26	5	Wheeler's Gulf	Neveu
Common Raven	1;4	1;2	Allegany S.P.	Hess; Yoerg
"	3,6,11	1,1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	13,28	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	18,31	1,1	Andover	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	1	2	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson, Galas
Tufted Titmouse	18	2	Rock Point P.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Red-br. Nuthatch	3-31	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	22	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Sowinski
"	31	1	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
Carolina Wren	1-31	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	1-31	1	East Pembroke	Seamans
"	7;23	1;1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson; Yoerg
"	20	1	Rock Point P.P.	Andrle, Brock
Eastern Bluebird	31	14	Amity	Pitzrick
Swainson's Thrush	4	5	South Valley	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Mockingbird	8,14	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Brown Thrasher	3,31	1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	12	4	Alfred	Brooks
Nashville Warbler	4	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Prairie Warbler	3	4	Andover	Klick
"	3,5,13	1,1,1	Alfred	Brooks

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Prairie Warbler	5,12,21,26	3,2,2,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	21,26	3 nestlings	Amity	Pitzrick
Northern Waterthrush	11	6	Iroquois N.W.R.	Skalicky
Vesper Sparrow	7,13,16	1,1,2	Andover	Brooks
"	7,13,16	1,1,2	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Yoerg
"	7,14,16	1,1,1	Andover	Brooks
"	7,14,16	1,1,1	Andover	Brooks
"	24	1	Pomfret	Neveu
Henslow's Sparrow	1	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Yoerg
White-thr. Sparrow	5,20	3,1	Alfred	Brooks
Dark-eyed Junco	11	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Skalicky

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	257
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue .....	3
Total for year .....	260

NEW BIG DAY RECORD SET

My 7th annual Big Day started at 2:30 a.m. on Saturday May 15 at Steve Taylor's Alden residence when the team (Steve, Willie D'Anna, Mike Turisk, and myself, Mike Morgante) heard an American Woodcock. It was the start to a long but exciting day of birding in Western New York. We picked up the 3 "common" owl species around Newstead and the Iroquois area in the pre-dawn hours. After missing it on six previous May big days, we finally heard a Least Bittern at Tonawanda WMA. This would have made my day on its own -- we had tried hard for that bird through the years. We even heard a second bird later on. Another great bird in the dark was an Alder Flycatcher we heard around 4 a.m. We did not expect to get that species on the early date of May 15, let alone at a random spot on Sour Springs Road in the pre-dawn.

It was nearly sunrise and the dawn chorus kicked into gear. We picked up a lot of birds at this time, especially between 6:00 and 7:30 on Owen/Bartel Road and Judge Road. Great Big Day pickups here included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo (3 separate birds), Northern Waterthrush, Ruffed Grouse, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and most impressively, an unexpected pair of calling Red-shouldered Hawks. Shorebirds and shorebird habitat were very limited. After a few stops along Route 77 overlooks (including Cayuga pool) we headed up to the Lake Ontario Plain. At 8:30 with a House Sparrow along the way we were already at 119 species. We added Upland Sandpiper and then went to Olcott for Mute Swan and some lake watching. Along Hartland Road in Somerset, I heard a Henslow's Sparrow sing while we were driving at 40 mph. We stopped and saw this rare and unexpected sparrow. A very productive stop was Barker Bicentennial Park where we saw an immature male Orchard Oriole, a second-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull, and picked up a Golden-crowned Kinglet (saving us a long hike later in the day) among other species. The trails at Golden Hill State Park brought us some warblers and other passerines. Along a trail from the parking lot at the Marina entrance to the park, we came across a warbler wave and after hearing it sing 2-3 times, we found a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. What a thrill to find this songster (only the second I had ever seen in my life). Despite being behind schedule, we spent some time enjoying this rare bird.



After quite a bit of driving, we stopped at Swallow Hollow Trail at Iroquois to get a Red-headed Woodpecker I had staked out the day before. Then more driving to Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant where the birding was really slow but we still picked up Lesser Scaup, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal. Several stops in Wyoming County during the warm afternoon gave us Dark-eyed Junco, Indigo Bunting, and Louisiana Waterthrush among other species. A long drive to Williamsville Glen followed but we only added a Bay-breasted Warbler there. We cruised to the Niagara Falls area with 161 species around 6:30 and arrived near 7 p.m. We had already passed our previous two years' totals (158 each year) but figured that we could not reach our personal best, the Western New York record of 169 species set in 1996. A staked out Northern Mockingbird was right where we expected, but a Carolina Wren was not to be found where it was "supposed to be." After adding Cape May Warbler, we peered into the gorge below the Falls. We found Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Greater Scaup, and Willie found us a lone Brant on the rocks for a great look. I swore that I had a glimpse of a Peregrine Falcon but we needed more than a glimpse to count it on a big day. All of a sudden the sun was going down but we were at 167! We drove to a spot along the Niagara River that had four Bufflehead (and another Lesser Black-backed Gull). It was after 8:00 and we were one short of tying our record. We hustled to observe the Motor Island rookery and we tied our record when we saw 3 Great Egrets on nests (good thing they were bright white!). It was quickly becoming dark. We had already done much better than we had expected - but we had to try to beat our record. There were only two chances that I could think of. We drove to downtown Buffalo and pulled up near the Peregrine nesting site. Sure enough, the female Peregrine was perched *outside* of the nest box on the pole, allowing us to see the bird in the residual city light at 9 p.m. WE DID IT! After spending five minutes listening unsuccessfully for nighthawks downtown, we happily concluded our day and returned to Alden around 9:45. It was quite amazing to break our record with only seven shorebird species - the lowest total in my seven years of doing big days. Our 23 warbler species was average. These are not complaints - just all the more amazing that we compiled 170 species! Such a day more than makes up for all the scouting and strategic planning ahead of time and the sheer exhaustion of the day itself. Big Day birding is a lot of fun - but one day of "sport birding" is enough to last the year (at least until the Montezuma Muckrace in the fall).

Mike Morgante

### AMITY LAKE BLUEBIRD TRAIL - SUMMARY 1999

The trail is maintained and monitored exclusively by Vivian Mills Pitzrick, 5162 Amity Lake Road, Belmont, NY 14813, Allegany County. Phone (716) 268-7263.

All nests are in the Town of Amity, excepting two of Tree Swallows in the Town of Friendship.

#### EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Total pairs	17
Total young fledged	71 (70%)
Avg. 2.6/nest	
Total eggs	126
Av. 4.5/nest	
Total Nestings	28
Total eggs hatched	98 (78%)
Nests successful	20 (71%)
Infertile eggs	16 (13%)
Total nestlings died or disappeared	27 (26%)

Eggs, disappeared	12 (10%)
Total nestings lost due to:	
Weather	4
Infertile eggs	2
Desertion	1
Raccoon	1
 Total blowfly larvae/pupae	999
Nests with larvae	20 (71%; avg. 50/nest)
Pairs nesting once	6
Pairs nesting twice	11
 Total boxes used (excluding duplicates) by:	
Eastern Bluebird	22
Tree Swallow	58
Other Species	13
Total	93000
 First egg	April 2
First young fledged	ca. May 20
Last nestling fledged	by August 12
Total number of boxes on Trail	160+ (?)
Number of boxes monitored	127

CUMULATIVE TOTAL (See Note 1 below) of young E. Bluebirds fledged since start of this trail in 1971:  
2417

NUMBER OF BOXES USED ON THE TRAIL (See note 2 below)

No. of nestings and of young fledged by:

	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Nestings</u>	<u>Young Fledged</u>
Tree Swallow	63	67	212
Black-capped Chickadee	2	2	0
House Wren	11	11	28
Eastern Bluebird	22	28	71
European Starling	3	3	1
House Sparrow	0	0	0

Boxes in House Sparrow habitat, such as near buildings, were either moved or closed off with the result that none was used by this species. House Sparrows will remove eggs and kill young as well as adults of other cavity nesters if they can catch them in the nest. With the first Eastern Bluebird egg laid on April 2, this season was even earlier than last year's first egg of April 22. Although the spring was warm, there were cold, rainy periods that were devastating to young nestlings which were old enough so that the adult would no longer brood them during the day. Loss to raccoon predation was nearly zero for bluebirds due to the use of the Noel coon guard. The one box which was molested did have the Noel guard on it. However, the raccoon pulled the box from the post at the top allowing it to rotate until bottom side up. The bluebird nestlings were entangled with



the nest material where the adults apparently could not find them. Compared with last year, blowfly larvae/pupae were found in 14% more of the bluebirds' nests with 18 more per nest than last year.

Note 1: This cumulative total is an updated figure from late last year that credits the Trail with 33 more Eastern Bluebird fledglings than previous data. The computer found the error.

Note 2: For the Eastern Bluebird, the circular entrance should be exactly 1½ inches in diameter for a standard nest box. The European Starling cannot use this size hole.

### **E-mail Directory**

Mike Morgante is compiling a directory of B.O.S. members' e-mail addresses. This will be distributed at the banquet. If you wish to be included, e-mail Mike at: Morgmmm@AOL.com and type "BOS" in the subject line.

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Welcome the following New Members:

Elizabeth (Liz) Wells  
Jim Rozanski  
92 W. Winspear Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
Tel: 837-0486

### **BOS MEETINGS**

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-4311).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

- Oct. 13: Annual meeting and election of officers. Also, Bob Andrlle will present "Adventures in the Tropics", a poster and slide program on studies of birds, other animals, and plant life from lowland rainforests to mountain cloud forests and lofty volcanoes in Latin America.
- Oct. 24: Details in the next issue.
- Nov. 12: B.O.S. Banquet, see details below.
- Dec. 8: Our speaker will be Bob Budlinger, a former DEC employee and past president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

## BOS BANQUET

**SAVE THIS DATE!** The five year banquet of the B.O.S. (1929-1999) will be held on Friday, **Nov. 12th** at 5:30 PM (time is tentative) at the Protocol Restaurant, 6766 Transit Road, Williamsville. The speaker will be Professor Ken Able, SUNY Albany. His topic will be migration and reminisces of his days as a B.O.S. member. He is author/editor of "Gathering of Angels". Reservation information and directions will be forthcoming later in the Prothonotary.

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## FIELD TRIPS

- Sept.-Oct. Hawk watching at Port Burwell, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Erie, 130 mi. west of Buffalo. B.O.S. watchers expect to go there on opportune days. See the article in this issue. Contact Bill Burch (773-3690).
- Oct. 10: Sunday. B.O.S. October Bird Count. Compiler: TBA.
- Oct. 24: Sunday. Iroquois N.W.R. and Batavia WWTP. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Tanning Bed. 0.1 mile east of Main and Transit on the south side of Main Street. Leader: Gail Seamans (at home - 762-4321).
- Oct. 30: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain of eastern Niagara and Orleans counties. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Wright's Corners on Rt. 78 at Tops market just north of the Rt. 104 intersection. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Oct. 31: Sunday. End of Daylight Savings Time, set clocks back one hour.
- Nov. 12: Friday. B.O.S. Banquet.
- Nov. 21: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester G.O.S. for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of the G.O.S. and Bob Brock of the B.O.S. (876-5862).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.



To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: ChasHal@AOL.com

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## THE MONTH: AUGUST, 1999

August put an abrupt end to the very hot and humid weather of the previous four months. A change in the jet stream pattern brought frequent frontal passages and associated changeable conditions. Tranquil, uneventful weather that became established last spring, gave way to turbulent and active conditions just after mid-month. An upper level low stalled over the Ohio Valley and brought a humid, southerly flow into Western New York. This clashed with local lake breezes and created several rounds of strong thunderstorms that created local flooding in parts of eastern Erie County. August with its average of 67.9°F., 1.1°F. below the norm, was the first below normal temperature month since March. No temperature records were set and there were only seven days that reached 80°F. Rainfall varied widely across the region due to localized storms between August 20 and 27. Most of the storms, however, hit the Buffalo Airport measuring device that reported a total of 4.38 inches, .21 inches above normal, making this the first above normal precipitation month since January and only the second in the last 13 months. The local drought conditions were somewhat ameliorated by the August rains, but the area as a whole remained in a mild to moderate long term drought as the month ended. Buffalo's 12-month deficit from September 1998 through August 1999 still stood at 9.25 inches, about 25% less than normal. August was also a fairly cloudy month, especially for summer, with only 51% of the possible sunshine. Lake Erie water temperatures cooled to 72°F., about one degree above the normal.

The three summer months of June, July, and August could be characterized as warm and dry. The relatively cool and wet August prevented near record heat and drought. Nevertheless, it was the 14th warmest summer in the 57 years of record at the Buffalo Airport. It was also the third driest in the last 42 years, despite the copious rains of late August. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y as posted on the Internet.)

The very low water levels in the Great Lakes, combined with frequent fronts and changeable weather, made for better than average August birding. Most observers concentrated their efforts in the Ontario Peninsula, particularly along the north shore of Lake Erie, where numerous records came from such spots as Rock Point Provincial Park and Windmill Point. About 20 species of shorebirds were reported from the shore, including the uncommon to rare Willet, Whimbrel, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The 22 species of warblers that were tallied



included an unusually early Orange-crowned Warbler. Several Oldsquaw and Greater Scaup were noted as they were in July. The exposed rocks at a section of Fort Erie, Ont. known locally to birders as "Jaeger Rocks" provided an undisturbed roosting area for four species of terns - Common, Forster's, Caspian, and Black - all of which were seen together on numerous occasions. A Little Gull and an unprecedented August Sabine's Gull also added excitement during the month.

Elsewhere in the Region, Double-crested Cormorant populations continued their upward spiral as indicated in the report below from Buckhorn Island State Park. The south shore of Lake Erie also had its beaches exposed from the low water levels, especially at Dunkirk Harbor where shorebirding was better than during an average year. And nearby on the south shore of Lake Erie off St. Columban's Seminary between Silver Creek and Dunkirk, an immature Surf Scoter, almost unprecedented during the summer months in Western New York, remained for over two weeks where it was studied by many local birders from August 2-8; unfortunately, no documentation of the record was submitted. A heavy southward movement of Common Nighthawks was evident from about August 22 to 26, when several reports of hundreds of birds were reported below and through Internet sources. Red-breasted Nuthatches were also on the move, although the meager few records below do not mirror the widespread abundance of this bird to our south and east as reported most of the month on the Internet.

Fifty years ago one of the rites of spring in Western New York was to travel to what was then called just "Oak Orchard" to witness the tremendous concentrations of transient Canada Geese that assembled there year after year. For a period of a few years when the word got out through local newspapers and other media, Sunday afternoons saw traffic jams of gigantic proportions. But things have changed in the more modern era. Everyone takes Canada Geese for granted now and in some cases their habits cause much grief to private property owners as well as users of golf courses, public parks, and even State Capitol grounds. To assist in alleviating the problems caused by resident, non-migratory geese, a new 42-page guide called *Managing Canada Geese in Urban Environments* is now available. A video, *Suburban Goose Management: Searching for Balance* complements the publication. Both can be obtained for \$10.00 and \$19.95 respectively from the Cornell University Media and Technology Services Resource Center, 7 BTP, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. They may also be available at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service county offices.

Richard C. Rosche

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
D.-crested Cormorant	13,26	210,310	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	20	500	Mohawk Is., Ont.	Andrle et al
"	23	<u>1282</u>	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
American Bittern	1	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Davis, Skalicky
Great Egret	1-21	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	6;8	1;1	Pomfret	Moshers; Watson
"	16	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas
"	27	1	North Harmony	Neveu
Black-cr. Night-Heron	20	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	25	3	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Mute Swan	23	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Klick
Wood Duck	16	61	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas
Blue-winged Teal	21	8	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna
"	26	14	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
Northern Shoveler	22	26	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Green-winged Teal	20	2	Bismarck, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	21	26	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Greater Scaup	<u>7</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	<u>14</u>	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Oldsquaw	<u>6,7</u>	1,2	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	<u>23</u>	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
Red-br. Merganser	6	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	14	7	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Morgante
"	22	9	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick
Common Merganser	6;20	5;9	Rock Point P.P.	Watson; Andrle et al
"	20	14	Camelot Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
Ruddy Duck	22	6	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick
Osprey	1	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Davis, Skalicky
"	29	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al
"	29	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick
Bald Eagle	1,8	1,1 ad.	Attica Reservoir	Sturm
"	1	1 im.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Davis, Skalicky
Broad-winged Hawk	28	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1 albino	Jamestown	Neveu
Merlin	<u>21F</u>	1	Cheektowaga	Klick
"	<u>29</u>	1;1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna; Watson, Klick et al
Black-bellied Plover	2;15	1;4	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg; S&T O'Donnell
"	2	13	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
"	14	5	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Morgante, D'Anna
"	21,29	65,47	Moulton, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
Amer. Golden-Plover	21F	2	Moulton, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Amer. Golden-Plover	22	2	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Yellowlegs	14	45	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante et al
Solitary Sandpiper	8	16	Burgeson W.S.	Watson
Willet	1	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna et al
Whimbrel	21F	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	29	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Ruddy Turnstone	6;22	11;10	Rock Point P.P.	Watson; Yoerg
*Red Knot	9F	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	29,30	1,4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Sanderling	28	2	Times Beach	Klick
Semipalm. Sandpiper	26	64	Wainfleet, Ont.	Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	21F	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	26,27	5,2	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
*Baird's Sandpiper	9F	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	21	3	Grabel Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	22,29	2,2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	27	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson, Galas
"	28	3	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Morgante
Pectoral Sandpiper	28	25	Batavia	Davis, Skalicky
Stilt Sandpiper	1;21	4;1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna; Morgante
"	20	4	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	28	1	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante
"	28	4	Times Beach	D'Anna et al
*Buff-br. Sandpiper	29F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	14,28	9,10	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Morgante et al
"	22	2	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	28	3	Times Beach	Watson
Common Snipe	8	14	Burgeson W.S.	Watson
"	9	2	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Little Gull	14	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Morgante
*Sabine's Gull	<u>26</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
Caspian Tern	14;29	3;11	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Morgante; Yoerg
"	17	6	Olcott	S&T O'Donnell
"	20	1	Bismarck, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	22	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	22	8	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick
"	24	4	Buffalo	Andrle
Common Tern	14,21	150,75	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Morgante et al
Forster's Tern	7;23	1;1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson; Klick
"	14,21;29	3,5;23	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Morgante; D'Anna et al
"	19,22	16,15	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton
"	28	4	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Morgante
Black Tern	1;14,21	13;7,6	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna; Morgante
"	28	3	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Morgante



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Nighthawk	12,26	3,8	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	22-31	5	Tonawanda	Hess
"	22	200	Egbertsville	Davis
"	22,25	29,62	Buffalo	Humann
Whip-poor-will	2	3	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	5	1	Rock Point P.P.	Andrle et al
"	7	4	Bertie, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
Olive-s. Flycatcher	21	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	15	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
Alder/Willow Flyc.	17	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
"	21	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Willow Flycatcher	21	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
Philadelphia Vireo	29F	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter et al
Common Raven	2,7	1,1	Andover	Brooks
"	5,10,27	1,1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	29	2	Alfred	Brooks
Red-br. Nuthatch	1-31	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	9	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	13	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	14	1	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante et al
"	28	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	31	1	Times Beach	Andrle
Carolina Wren	1-31	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	6,7,13	1,2,2	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	7	4	Bertie, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	5	Sheridan	Mosher
"	31	1	Times Beach	Andrle
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2	2	Andover	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	14	5	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Morgante
Veery	29F	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Swainson's Thrush	29F	3	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Blue-winged Warbler	29F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Golden-wing. Warbler	15F;29	1;1	Rock Point P.P.	S&T O'Donnell; D'Anna
Tennessee Warbler	27F	1	Goat Island	Potter
Orange-cr. Warbler	29F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Watson et al.
Nashville Warbler	20F	1	Wheatfield	Potter
Northern Parula	29F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
Chestnut-s. Warbler	21F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Magnolia Warbler	21F	6	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Cape May Warbler	21F;29	1;3	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna; Watson et al
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	21F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Yellow-r. Warbler	19F	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton
"	21	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	19F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Blackburnian Warbler	7F;21	1;5	Rock Point P.P.	Watson; D'Anna
Bay-breasted Warbler	21F	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	3	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Blackpoll Warbler	27F	1	Goat Island	Potter
"	31	1	Times Beach	Andrle
Black-and-white Warb.	14F	2	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante, D'Anna
"	19	1	Pomfret	Mosher
La. Waterthrush	8	1	Burgeson W.S.	Watson
Mourning Warbler	29F	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Hooded Warbler	8,28F	1,1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
Wilson's Warbler	21F;29	1;5	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna; Klick
Canada Warbler	15	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
"	21F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	260
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue .....	4
Total for year .....	264

## THE BUFFALO PEREGRINES ARE A BELLIGERANT PAIR

The 1999 occupants of the Statler Hotel nest box are more aggressive than last year's pair. The following report from Jim and Karen Landau illustrates this:

"On Sunday, May 2 at about 4 p.m., Karen and I drove to downtown to check on the Peregrine Falcons nesting in the window box on the Statler Hotel. All was quiet with the male settled on one of the two perches extending from the nest box and the female on the nest, as could be seen on the monitor in the U.S. Airways window. As I watched the male from across the street, he took flight toward the south. I expected him to head toward the Liberty Bank Building towers, a favorite perch with a wide view of the surrounding territory as well as the nest. Instead, he flew higher to intercept a pair of Turkey Vultures that were soaring in lazy circles in a northerly direction, presumably on a migration route. The startled vultures began flapping and altering course to avoid the attacking male. As Karen joined me to watch the air combat, the female left the nest and joined the fray, now moving over toward City Hall. Both falcons repeatedly struck at the vultures, at one time the male sending a shower of vulture feathers floating downward. Both falcons displayed their legendary speed when launching their attacks, handily accelerating and overtaking the alarmed intruders. We were struck by the dramatic difference in size and maneuverability between the two species which was comparable to witnessing American Crows harassing a Red-tailed Hawk, only with more focused fury.

Once the vultures managed a getaway to the north of City Hall, the female returned briefly to the nest box. We ran across the street to the monitor, where we watched her checking on her three chicks, which at nine days were still quite small and clumsy. Satisfied that all was well, she settled back on the nest as if nothing had happened. We had lost track of the male in crossing the street and we left after another 15 minutes, although I'm certain that he maintained a view of the nest from wherever he was perched."

The next incident was on May 7 when pedestrians at Pearl and Court, a block away from the nest box, were astonished to see a Red-tailed Hawk under attack from the two Peregrines. The hawk, while dodging them,



struck a street lamp post and was injured, falling to the ground. The DEC took it to the Hawk Creek rehabilitation center. Their technician, Matt Zymanek, said that injuries to the hawk, an immature, were moderate. It was released on August 30 from Delaware Park with an assist from Mayor Masiello. Whether this was a migrant or a local hawk is not known. Hawk watcher Cathy Sanderson said that a Red-tail had often come to the Naval Park (0.7 mile distant) to pursue squirrels in nearby trees.

Also in May a dead Ring-billed Gull had been found on the Mohawk Street sidewalk of the Statler. The cause of death was not determined but the Peregrines are suspected.

Ms. Sanderson, watching from the Rand Building, could account for all five of the Buffalo Peregrine family each day between June 5 and 11, the last day she was downtown. All three young had become skilled fliers.

The Niagara Falls Peregrines eluded attempts by birders to find their nest site, but were successful in fledging four young. These were flying in the gorge at the falls and as of July 12 were being fed by the parents. All evidence is that the nest was on the ledges of Goat Island, NY.

Bill Burch

## ATLAS 2000

New York State's second breeding bird atlas project called ATLAS 2000 is about to begin in the spring of 2000 and continue for the next five years. Much remains to be done in the coming few months, such as hiring the State Coordinator who is to be officed in Albany, the printing of the Handbook for Workers, and the preparation and distribution of maps. However, some activity can take place at the present time in preparation for the 2000 breeding season which begins in January with the Great Horned Owl nesting activity. As the Region 1 Project Coordinator, in the next few months I shall be visiting the various bird clubs in the Region and inviting participation by everyone who is able and willing to devote their time to the project. If you have a favorite territory that you would like to work for the Atlas Project now is the time to let me know. It is particularly important that individuals who worked on the project in the early 1980's cover the same blocks of land this time, if at all possible. In order to be successful and a useful comparison to the data in the first atlas full coverage by as many observers as possible will be required.

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## BIRDING THE LAKE ONTARIO PLAIN

(Part Two - Route 78 to Route 98)

Willie D'Anna

Less studied and less populated, the Lake Ontario Plain east of Route 78 has a pastoral calm and a potential for birds that will keep you coming back. The agricultural fields are still extensive but unlike the area in Part One (see *The Prothonotary* Vol. 61, p. 91), there are even a few contiguous woodlands, which provide habitat for breeding birds rarely found nearer to the Niagara River.

The list of specific sites includes many areas that can be checked fairly quickly. Although the list of rarities recorded at many of these sites is comparatively short, this has mainly to do with a lack of observers living in and near the area. With continued study the list should be nearly as long as Part One's. Even without an



attraction comparable to the Niagara River, the potential here is in some ways greater.

The reader is referred to Part One for an introduction to the Lake Ontario Plain and for general information about hawk flights, lake lookouts, owls, and waterfowl and shorebirds. Some specific Part Two sites for these types of birding are given here.

### Hawk Flights

Between the Niagara River and Route 98, hawks will migrate either eastward or westward. It is not unusual to see hawks flying in both directions on the same day. To observe the most raptors, however, it is best if they are all moving in the same direction. In general, when you are in this part of the lake plain, the further east you go, the more likely it is that the raptors will be flying east. This is a good rule-of-thumb to remember when you encounter a "split-flight". Also, as described in Part One the hawks are nearest the lake early in the morning and then their flight path shifts inland, usually in late morning when the lake breeze kicks in. Any north-south road with a long view to the east and west will do. Some suggestions are Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road (Countyline Road), Marshall Road, and Yates-Carlton (Y-C) Townline Road.

### Lake Lookouts

There are many access points: Krull Park, Keg Creek (requires a quarter-mile walk), Barker Bicentennial Park, Golden Hill State Park, Countyline Road, Shadigee (north from the end of Route 63), Y-C Townline Road, Lakeside Beach State Park, and Point Breeze.

### Owls

The only publicly accessible conifer plantations are at Golden Hill State Park and Krull County Park. The former has produced Long-eared and Saw-whet owls on many occasions. Many other plantations, unfortunately, are on posted lands.

### Waterfowl and Shorebirds

Seasonally flooded fields which provide habitat for these birds are located along Hosmer Road between Route 104 and Somerset-Hartland (S-H) Townline Road, Route 18 between Carmen Road and Murdock Road, the pasture on the south side of Route 18 across from Morrison Road, S-H Townline Road west of Johnson Creek Road\*, Countyline Road Pond between Yates Center Road and Millers Road\*, Countyline Road north of Route 18, Marshall Road north of Route 18, and Stillwater-Harris Roads pond\*. Sites marked with an asterisk have been the most consistently productive for spring shorebirds in recent years. At all of these sites, spring is usually more productive than fall.

## **Specific Sites – East of Route 78**

**1) Krull County Park** - This park's proximity to the lake and its conifer plantations on the south side of Route 18 has produced a few good birds. The park extends along both sides of Route 18 in the Village of Olcott a little east of Route 78. Bluebirds are regularly seen near the southeast corner of the park. Although a few winter finches and owls have been found here, there have been few recent sightings (excepting Great Horned Owl). Some brushy areas along the south and southwestern edges provide, along with the conifers, habitat for a variety of warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatch in migration. A small stream near the south edge once held a spring migrant American Bittern. For viewing the lake, the parking lot at the northeast corner of the park seems best. From here, significant flights of Red-necked Grebes and Red-throated Loons have been recorded as well as the more common waterfowl species. Check the nearby piers for resting gulls and terns.

**2) Keg Creek** - This creek crosses Route 18 just west of Hess Road. Park in the lot on the north side of



Route 18 west of the creek. Cross to the east side and walk along the creek, either north to the lake or to the south. Alternatively, you can walk to the lake on the west side of the creek, between the edge of the orchard and the top of the creek ravine – to do so, simply walk straight ahead from the parking area. Except during B.O.S. counts, this site has been virtually unstudied. Now that I am aware of it, however, that will soon change. Large trees line the edges of the creek providing food for warblers. Near the mouth a cattail marsh, protected from wind by the high banks, could hold a variety of species, perhaps even in winter. Along the cliffs of the lakeshore on the East Side of the creek, a very nice mature woods has great potential. Common Moorhen and Red-headed Woodpecker (formerly bred?) are two of the better birds found here but I believe that further study will produce many greater rarities.

**3) Hartland Road brushy creek** - A small creek crossing the road, about a quarter-mile south of where Hartland Road bends east to become Lower Lake Road, marks a quick easy stop that almost always produces a few birds. Hawthorn trees along the creek attract several species, especially in winter. Sparrows love the cover provided by the thick brush. Once, in late April, I found nine species of sparrows and juncos here! **Note:** The homeowner just north of the creek has requested that people stay off of his lawn and park on the south side of the creek.

**4) Somerset-Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant** - Located on the south side of Lower Lake Road just west of Quaker Road, the two ponds here sometimes have shorebirds in May, or July through October. Gulls frequently roost on the grass and one July, feeding among them was a Whimbrel. To check the ponds, park along the driveway, leaving room for trucks to get by, and take the short walk around the east end of the building in order to look through the fence. Viewing is difficult, as the ponds are somewhat elevated. If the gate is open, ask permission to look from inside the fence for a better view.

**5) Barker Bicentennial Park** - This tiny park is located at the foot of Quaker Road. The main attraction to the birder is lake access. For some reason this seems to be a favored spot for waterfowl to feed and rest. Once 300 Common Loons were counted on the water here. At times even greater numbers migrate past, as do numbers of Red-throated Loons, Red-necked Grebes, and all of the regular diving ducks. Even gulls show a slight predilection for this piece of the lake with all three of the white-winged species (Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's) being found here in the winter of 1995-96. In the fabulous autumn of 1996, five jaegers were seen here during the B.O.S. field trip. Orchard Orioles have nested in the spruce trees here and seem to nest every year nearby if not in the park. A flock of Bohemian Waxwings once stopped here. Common Redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings may migrate past or stop in and a White-winged Crossbill was the highlight of one May Big Day.

**6) Lover's Lane and Fish Creek** - Located on the south side of Lower Lake Road between Quaker Road and Johnson Creek Road, Lover's Lane is actually marked as such on some maps. The road formerly crossed Fish Creek but the bridge has been removed and the road is not maintained. Unfortunately, both sides of Lover's Lane between Lower Lake Road and the creek are posted but it is still often worthwhile just to walk along the road through the woods. This is one of very few (but increasing) places where Pileated Woodpeckers have bred in Niagara County. Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Pine Grosbeaks have been seen here, though they are more often heard overhead. An Orchard Oriole was found once. Occasionally, a nice group of migrant passerines will stop here. Just east of the start of Lover's Lane, Lower Lake Road dips and crosses Fish Creek, which angles from southwest to northeast. This very brushy area can be surprisingly productive. Numbers of warblers, sparrows, kinglets, finches, and woodpeckers have been seen here. In winter the shelter and natural food as well as the feeding station just east of the creek gully always attract a number of birds. Examples of good winter finds here include Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee, and Hermit Thrush. Once, even a Ruffed Grouse was flushed, an exceptionally rare bird in the county. Please respect the privacy of the residents and the posted signs by staying on the road.



**7) Golden Hill State Park** - Any trip to this region of the Lake Ontario Plain should include a stop here. The park is located on the lake just west of Countyline Road. Both entrances are worth checking - the boat launch on the east and the campsite on the west. Should you go in the campsite entrance when admission is being charged, simply request permission to look for birds on the lake. The pay station is about 3/8 mile north of Lower Lake Road. This park has a fine mix of shrubby growth, pine plantations, mature bottomland woods, and limited areas of open mowed grass. The variety of birds using the park and flying over it is tremendous. Warblering in May and September can be outstanding. Sparrows are abundant at times, especially in mid to late April. Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls are regular in migration and sometimes occur in winter. Raptors fly directly over the park during spring mornings, before the lake-effect breeze pushes them inland. Northern Shrikes are often found here with November and December offering the best chance. During March and April in particular, check the shrikes carefully, as Loggerhead has been found then. Bohemian Waxwing, sometimes in flocks, and winter finches have been seen on numerous occasions. Other rarities discovered here include Prairie Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. Lake-watching from here has produced large numbers of Red-throated Loons, Red-necked Grebes and Brant (mid to late October is the peak migration period for the latter species) as well as more common waterfowl. An old record from here continues as the best - a Pacific Loon found by Harold and Rachel Axtell back in 1959. A few trails to check are along the creek in either direction from the campsite entrance and west along the creek from the boat launch entrance.

**8) Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road** - Birds of open country are the main interest here and the two mile stretch of this road south of the lake has been one of the most consistently productive sites in all of western New York. In March and April the fields near the intersection with Route 18 (Roosevelt Highway) and between Carmen and Murdock Roads along Route 18 itself, hold thousands of Canada Geese, usually a few to many Snow Geese (maximum count of over 700), and almost annually of late, Greater White-fronted Geese (with a maximum of six). Many species of dabbling ducks are often with the geese. These same fields often have Rough-legged Hawk in migration or winter, Turkey Vulture in migration, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Red-tailed Hawk at any time. In addition Bald Eagle, Snowy and Short-eared Owls have been seen many times, Merlin twice, Peregrine Falcon and Golden Eagle at least once each and, during one winter, this was the favorite area for a Gyrfalcon. You should also look for American Pipits during migration, and during migration and winter Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, and Lapland Longspur. In fact the fields along Countyline Road just north of Route 18 have been the most consistent site for the latter species in the entire B.O.S. region. As the geese begin to thin out in April and early May, it is time to look for shorebirds in wet spots of the same fields. In addition a pond between Yates Center and Miller roads on the east side of Countyline Road, one mile south of Route 18, often hosts numbers of shorebirds and once, a Ruff and a Reeve at the same time! The pond area frequently has Common Snipe in late March and April. Also, be sure to check the wet grass across the road from the pond, where shorebirds can hide. In addition, in late spring and summer listen for Orchard Oriole in the area, especially in the orchard just north of the pond.

**9) Millers Road** - This road begins at Countyline Road and runs east to the Village of Lyndonville. Beginning about one mile east of Countyline Road, the woods along the road harbor rare and uncommon breeding birds for the Lake Plain. "No Trespassing" signs restrict the birder to the road but the fierce mosquitoes here would probably do the same should you venture into the woods. Acadian Flycatcher and Hooded Warbler, two birds of more southern affinity have been found here in recent years. Yellow-throated Vireo, Cerulean, Mourning, and Golden-winged Warblers also breed.

**10) Somerset-Hartland (S-H) Townline Road** - Starting east from Hess Road, this road is called Dublin Road before its name changes to the more unwieldy but accurate name above. Woodland breeding birds, including both cuckoos and Pileated Woodpecker on several occasions, waterfowl and shorebirds, including Upland Sandpiper are the main attractions. Golden-winged Warbler has been found many times 1/4 to 1/2 mile



east of Hess Road. Their preferred habitat is transitional - thick second growth woods before the trees get big enough to form a canopy. Unfortunately, as with many areas in the northeast, Blue-winged Warblers appear to be taking over. Listen for the Golden-winged's "bee-buzz-buzz-buzz" song but also be sure to visually identify the singer. Blue-winged Warblers will, not infrequently, sing the song of the other species - these singers are possibly hybrids or birds with "impure" genes (also known as backcrosses). Yellow-throated Vireos are found uncommonly along this road. Listen for their slow burry song, then have fun trying to locate them in the tall trees. One spot that has been productive for spring shorebirds in recent years is 1/4 mile west of Johnson Creek Road on the south side of S-H Townline Road. This seasonally flooded area, which is well off the road, has also produced both Great and Snowy Egrets. Upland Sandpipers have been seen at this same field but are more frequent just east of Hosmer Road and just west of Countyline Road. Common Snipe may breed here as they have been found well into May on more than one occasion.

**11) Yates-Carlton Townline Road** - A good place to look over Lake Ontario from and also good for watching hawk flights. Eared Grebe, Sandhill Crane, "Western Red-tailed Hawk", and Northern Goshawk are some of the best sightings here. A little south of Lakeshore Road a Great Gray Owl was seen in spring 1996 and a Northern Hawk-Owl was found in the same area several winters ago. The field on the east side of the road midway between Route 18 and Lakeshore Road often holds a few Horned Larks, sometimes with Snow Buntings or Lapland Longspurs.

**12) Stillwater-Harris Roads pond** - Located on the southwest quadrant of the intersection of these two roads, this seasonal pond is often worth a stop. Waterfowl are numerous at times in the spring and many species of shorebirds have been found here, including several Wilson's Phalaropes and a rare-in-spring Stilt Sandpiper.

**13) Waterport Pond** - This large pond, known locally as Lake Alice, was formed by the damming of Oak Orchard Creek. You can view the pond from Waterport-Carlton Road, which comes off Route 279 or from Route 279 itself, near where it crosses the pond. A good variety of waterfowl has been found here in spring and large numbers of Canada Geese can be seen here and in the nearby fields, especially in March. A Greater White-fronted Goose was found here in 1997. Snow Goose and Tundra Swan also occur.

**14) Lakeside Beach State Park** - Because of its remote location, this park has been poorly covered. The entrance fee is another inhibitor. However, if you arrive early enough in the morning or early enough in the season, there is no charge. The park provides a lake lookout and often the parking area is a good place to watch the hawk migration. Golden Eagle and Merlin have been seen from here. A nice old woods is next to the parking lot. Red-headed Woodpeckers have bred here and have been found several times in winter as well. Great Horned Owls are often seen in these woods, Northern Shrikes have been found several times, and great numbers of songbird migrants can be found with the right conditions. The park is located at the western end of the Lake Ontario State Parkway on the north side of Route 18.

**15) Point Breeze** - To reach the pier which is at the mouth of Oak Orchard Creek, go north on Route 98 from either Route 18 or the Lake Ontario Parkway all the way to the end of the road. The road turns left once - just follow it to the parking area. The common diving waterfowl can be expected here with some dabblers often in the creek near the parking area. Sanderling, Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone have all been seen on the isolated pier off the end of the main pier. Many gulls and terns like to roost here as well.



## Rare and Uncommon Species

(Includes Parts One and Two)

**Red-throated Loon** - rare to very common migrant and rare winter resident on Lake Ontario (Part Two areas better). More numerous in fall. Best times are November, December, and April. Usually seen in flight well offshore, look for this species' slimmer and paler head and neck and shorter legs as compared to Common Loon.

**Pacific Loon** - casual vagrant on Lake Ontario, one April record for the region.

**Red-necked Grebe** - rare to common migrant on Lake Ontario (Part Two areas better). Best times are March and April. Usually seen swimming well offshore. In early morning, however, you can sometimes find this species much closer to land.

**Eared Grebe** - very rare migrant on Lake Ontario, usually when Horned Grebes are numerous (March, April, November, December).

**Northern Gannet** - very rare fall migrant on Lake Ontario and the Niagara River (November, December best).

**Am. White Pelican** - one May record off Four Mile Creek S.P. Another in Town of Newfane was possibly on the lake also.

**Great Cormorant** - no B.O.S. records. However, the species has been found multiple times both to the east and to the west of our region on Lake Ontario.

**Great Egret** - rare but regular spring migrant. Usually seen migrating along Lake Ontario in late April or May. Occasionally seen in shallow ponds or seasonally flooded fields.

**Snowy Egret** - one record on S-H Townline Road (Site 10) just west of Johnson Creek Road.

**Little Blue Heron** - one spring record in a field along Youngstown-Wilson Road in the Town of Wilson.

**Cattle Egret** - one record at the Braley Road pasture (Part One).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** - rare but regular in spring. Multiple locations. Best bets are the Countyline Road area (Site 8) or anywhere there are large flocks of geese.

**Snow Goose** - uncommon spring migrant, rare in fall. Consistent in spring in the Countyline Road vicinity.

**Brant** - on the right day in mid to late October, a migration of hundreds can be seen over Lake Ontario. When not migrating, however, they are very difficult to find. The further east you go, the better your chances.

**Mute Swan** - this introduced species is rapidly increasing in the Braddock Bay area, but oddly (and fortunately!) it remains a rare bird in our region. It has occurred at several spots along the lake and the mouth of the Niagara River, usually in winter. An attempt to nest on Eighteen Mile Creek in Olcott was apparently unsuccessful.

**Tundra Swan** - briefly common in spring. On good flight days, hundreds may be seen migrating along the lake. Best bet is in early to mid March in the Countyline Road area (Site 8) or anywhere geese are congregated.

**Eurasian Wigeon** - one spring record on Ransomville Road (Part One).

**Tufted Duck** - no records from Lake Ontario in the B.O.S. region. However, the species has been found several times on the lake to the west of our region and once to the east.

**King Eider** - regular in migration and winter on Lake Ontario. Underreported from our region. Could show up anywhere.

**Harlequin Duck** - has been found at scattered locations on the river and the lake, all in winter.

**Surf and Black Scoters** - regular fall migrants, much less frequent in winter and spring. October and November is the best time.

**Rough-legged Hawk** - in winter, the best opportunity for this species in recent years has been the area between Countyline Road and Lakeside Beach State Park, between Route 18 and the lake. Could be found anywhere, however, especially when migrating in November, March, and April. Occasionally, it is common through the winter.



**Gyr Falcon** – found in two different winters along Countyline Road (Site 8).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** – less common than formerly but numbers still augmented by frequent releases at Golden Hill S.P. and possibly elsewhere. Easy to hear in spring and summer. Chanced upon at other times.

**Sandhill Crane** – formerly very rare, now a rare annual spring migrant. Can be found anywhere in open fields but often seen migrating with hawks. Frequently heard before seen, the call carries over a great distance.

**Black-bellied Plover** – uncommon migrant in May, and August through November. Look for it, especially, in plowed fields; also seen in short grass areas, seasonally flooded fields and Somerset-Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant (Site 4).

**American Golden-Plover** – uncommon fall migrant, September through November. Usually in plowed fields, often with Black-bellied Plovers.

**Upland Sandpiper** – declining, though probably overlooked to some extent. S-H Townline Road (Site 10) just east of Hosmer Road is the best spot. Has also been heard across from the Countyline Road pond (Site 8) one mile south of Route 18 and at two other spots along S-H Townline Road – just west of Johnson Creek Road and just west of Countyline Road.

**Whimbrel** – one July record at the Somerset-Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant (Site 4). Fly-bys on Lake Ontario in late May are also possible.

**Hudsonian Godwit** – one October record from a farm pond on Marshall Road, about a mile south of Route 18.

**Stilt Sandpiper** – two May records. One at the Stillwater-Harris Road pond (Site 12) and one either in Town of Yates or Carlton. The only sighting during fall migration was in July in Yates.

**Ruff** – two records involving three birds in early May. One Reeve was on Ransomville Road (Part One) and a male and female were at the Countyline Road pond (Site 8) one mile south of Route 18.

**Wilson's Phalarope** – one on Ransomville Road (Part One) and four at the Stillwater-Harris Road pond (Site 12), both in May. One in late April on Route 18 in Yates.

**Red Phalarope** – three records at the mouth of the river off Fort Niagara S.P. (Part One), November to January.

**Jaegers** – mostly Parasitic with a few Pomarine. Rare anywhere on Lake Ontario. Usually found harassing the gulls well out over the lake in October and November, especially after the passage of a cold front.

**Laughing Gull** – a January record on the Niagara River at Lewiston and a May Count record on Lower Lake Road in the Town of Somerset.

**Franklin's Gull** – usually found at Lewiston or the mouth of the Niagara River and once on Lake Ontario from Countyline Road. Most records are from September to November but this species should be looked for on the lake and nearby fields in May.

**Little Gull** – fall, winter and spring resident on the Niagara River at Lewiston. Rarer but regular on Lake Ontario.

**Black-headed Gull** – formerly more frequent on the Niagara River. Lewiston and the “flypast” (Part One) offer the best chance, from late fall through April.

**Thayer's Gull** – rare on the Niagara River at Lewiston, November through April. Has been reported from the mouth of the river and from Lake Ontario off Barker Bicentennial Park (Site 5).

**Iceland Gull** – uncommon on the river at Lewiston and on Lake Ontario, November through April.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – uncommon on the river at Lewiston, November through April. Rare but increasing on Lake Ontario.

**Glaucous Gull** – uncommon on the river at Lewiston and on Lake Ontario, November through April.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** – rare on the river at Lewiston and on Lake Ontario, November through January.

**Ross's Gull** – a single bird observed on the river in November 1995, at Lewiston and at the “flypast” (Part One).

**Sabine's Gull** – several sightings on the river at Lewiston in October and November.



**Caspian Tern** – the most common tern on Lake Ontario. Look for it in April, May, August and September.

**Razorbill** – incredibly, there are two sightings at the mouth of the Niagara River - November 27, 1982 and January 2, 1985.

**Barn Owl** – Only one record since 1971 - at Wilson-Tuscarora S.P. (Part One) in March. Much rarer than formerly. Older records are from the towns of Wilson, Porter, and Somerset.

**Snowy Owl** – rare but probably regular migrant in open fields or near the shoreline, chiefly in December and January. Very rarely over-winters. Has been seen at the old fort at Fort Niagara S.P. (Part One) on a few occasions.

**Northern Hawk Owl** – one report along Y-C Townline Road in Town of Carlton (Site 11).

**Great Gray Owl** – two sightings, one at the NYSEG Power Plant in the Town of Somerset and one on Y-C Townline Road (Site 11) in Yates in the spring of 1996. These may have involved two different birds as quite a few were found in New York State that year.

**Long-eared Owl** – uncommon, found in conifer plantations from November through April. Specific sites are the west side of Four Mile Creek S.P., Lutts Road, Wilson-Tuscarora S.P. (all in Part One), and Golden Hill S.P. (Site 7).

**Short-eared Owl** – uncommon, usually found flying over hay fields at dawn and dusk, chiefly in winter and early spring. Has been seen many times near the intersection of Youngstown-Wilson and Dickersonville Roads in the Town of Porter.

**Boreal Owl** – one record, a November road-kill on Route 18 in front of the NYSEG Power Plant.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – rare, found in conifer plantations from late February to mid April. Much rarer in winter. Specific sites are the west side of Four Mile Creek S.P., Lutts Road, Wilson-Tuscarora S.P. (all in Part One), and Golden Hill S.P. (Site 7).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** – drastically reduced from years past. Breeds at Fort Niagara S.P. (Part One). Often winters there and occasionally at Lakeside Beach S.P. (Site 14).

**Three-toed Woodpecker** – one record at Oakland Cemetery (Part One), October 27, 1974.

**Pileated Woodpecker** – hard to find on the lake plain but increasing. Two known areas are Lover's Lane (Site 6) and S-H Townline Road (Site 10).

**Northern Shrike** – uncommon winter resident just about anywhere. November and December are the best months.

**Loggerhead Shrike** – formerly more frequent, now a great rarity. The only record since 1979 was at Golden Hill State Park on March 31, 1991.

**Yellow-throated Vireo** – an uncommon breeder, usually found by hearing its song. Often in tall trees, making it difficult to locate.

**Black-billed Magpie** – one in Youngstown September of 1989. Sightings of this species in the east may be escapes.

**Northern Mockingbird** – fairly common year-round resident in areas near the Niagara River. Less frequent the further east you go. Rare in Part Two areas. Best spots are Joseph Davis S.P., by the water plant across the road from the Lewiston Dock (both in Part One), and residential areas in Lewiston and Youngstown.

**American Pipit** – uncommon to very common migrant in March, April, May, October, and November. Look for it in plowed or sparsely vegetated fields and listen for it anywhere migrating overhead. There could be hundreds in a field which you might not see until they fly.

**Bohemian Waxwing** – nearly annual, late October through early January. Usually found with Cedar Waxwings. Multiple sightings at Golden Hill State Park along the path west of the boat launch parking lot and in ornamental trees along the Robert Moses Parkway near Four Mile Creek and Fort Niagara State Parks.

**Golden-winged Warbler** – decreasing rapidly due to displacement by the Blue-winged Warbler. Prefers



second-growth woods that have not yet formed a canopy. The towns of Somerset and Yates offer your best chance. Specific sites include Dublin Road about a half-mile east of Hess Road and Millers Road about 1.25 miles east of Countyline Road.

**Prairie Warbler** – two records. One from Golden Hill State Park and one along Lakeshore Road in the Town of Yates, both in early May.

**Cerulean Warbler** – an uncommon breeder in woods with tall trees. Easily overlooked if you do not know its song; hard to see, even if you do.

**Louisiana Waterthrush** – the only record was in late April at Golden Hill State Park.

**Kentucky Warbler** – has been seen at Fort Niagara and Four Mile Creek State Parks in September.

**Connecticut Warbler** – has been recorded at Fort Niagara, Four Mile Creek, and Wilson-Tuscarora State Parks (Part One). Five records were in September and two were in May.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** – found once at Golden Hill State Park in May.

**Vesper Sparrow** – formerly common, now a rare breeder in fields with sparse vegetation. Uncommon in spring migration, chiefly in April. Recently, it has been found in the breeding season in an orchard on Drake Settlement Road in the Town of Newfane, about a half-mile west of Hess Road.

**Harris's Sparrow** – one May record in the Town of Newfane and another in February and March along Lakeshore Road in the Town of Yates.

**Lapland Longspur** – uncommon to rare and local in fall and winter. Best site by far is the manured fields along Countyline Road (Site 8) north of Route 18. Look for it with Snow Buntings and especially Horned Larks.

**Brewer's Blackbird** – two records in the Town of Porter in April, one at the Braley Road pasture (Part One) involved six birds.

**Orchard Oriole** – a rare but probably regular breeder and spring migrant. Usually arrives in mid to late May. In recent years has been found at Ransomville Road (Part One), Barker Bicentennial Park (Site 5), Golden Hill State Park (Site 7) and Lakeshore Road and Shadigee in the Town of Yates.

**Pine Grosbeak** – a rare and irregular winter resident. Has been found several times along Lutts Road (Part One), also at Lover's Lane (Site 6) and along Lakeshore Road in the Town of Yates. Found with about equal frequency in deciduous and coniferous trees.

**Red and White-winged Crossbills** – rare and irregular migrants and winter residents. Look for them in pine and spruce plantations or at places like Oakland Cemetery and Greenwood Cemetery (both in Part One). Most frequently encountered as fly-bys near the lake.

**Common Redpoll** – can be abundant in migration and winter on the lake plain in irruption years, completely absent other years. Look for them particularly in birches, alders, and weedy fields.

**Hoary Redpoll** – normally only found when there is an abundance of Common Redpolls and always with that species. Has been recorded in Lewiston, in a field to the east of Krull Park (Site 1) and in an orchard (on weeds between the trees) across from the Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant (Site 4).

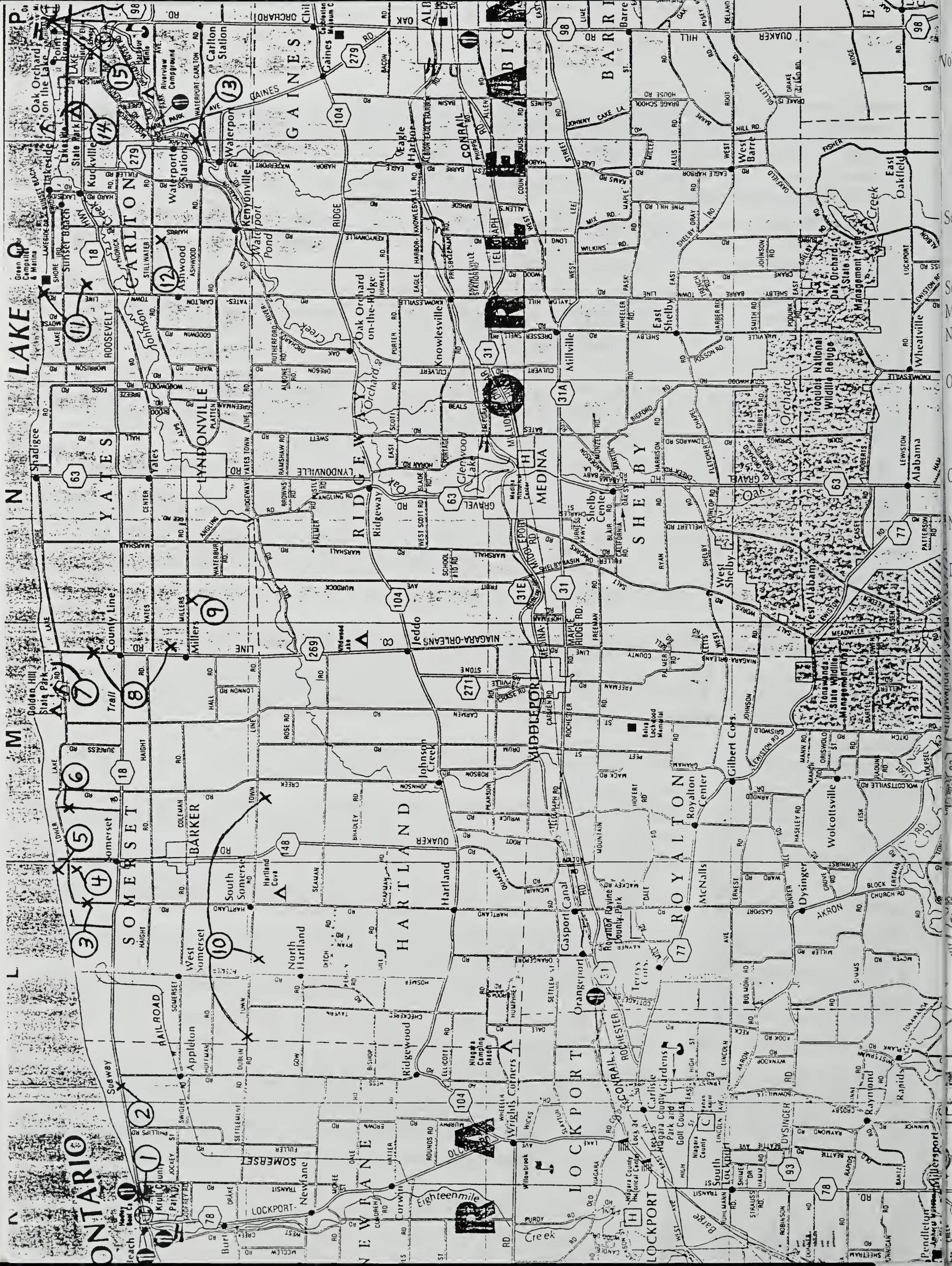
**Pine Siskin** – irregular in winter, usually rare, occasionally common in migration. Look for it at Oakland and Greenwood Cemeteries (Part One), and migrating along the lakeshore.

**Evening Grosbeak** – irregular rare to uncommon migrant. Rarely found in winter. Most frequently encountered as a fly-by near Lake Ontario.

### Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Gerry Rising whose editing skills made Part Two much more readable than it was originally. Mike Morgante's thorough review found several omissions as well as a few errors. Bob Brock and Mike Turisk added some sightings I had either forgotten or had not known about. I am grateful for their assistance.







## BOS MEETINGS

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-8040).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

- Oct. 13: Annual meeting and election of officers. Bob Andrie will present: "Adventures in the Tropics" - a poster and slide program on studies of birds, other animals and plant life from lowland rainforests to mountain cloud forests and lofty volcanoes in Latin America.
- Oct. 24: TBA.
- Nov. 12: B.O.S. Banquet at the Protocol Restaurant, 6766 Transit Rd., Williamsville.
- Dec. 8: Our speaker will be Bob Budlinger, a former DEC employee and past president of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs.

## FIELD TRIPS

- Oct. 24: Sunday. Iroquois N.W.R. and Batavia WWTP. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at The Tanning Bed. 0.1 mile east of Main and Transit on the south side of Main Street. Leader: Gail Seamans (at home - 762-8040).
- Oct. 30: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain of eastern Niagara and Orleans counties. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Wright's Corners on Rt. 78 at Tops market just north of the Rt. 104 intersection. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Oct. 31: Sunday. End of Daylight Savings Time, set clocks back one hour.
- Nov. 21: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester G.O.S. for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of the G.O.S. and Bob Brock of the B.O.S. (876-5862).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

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For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

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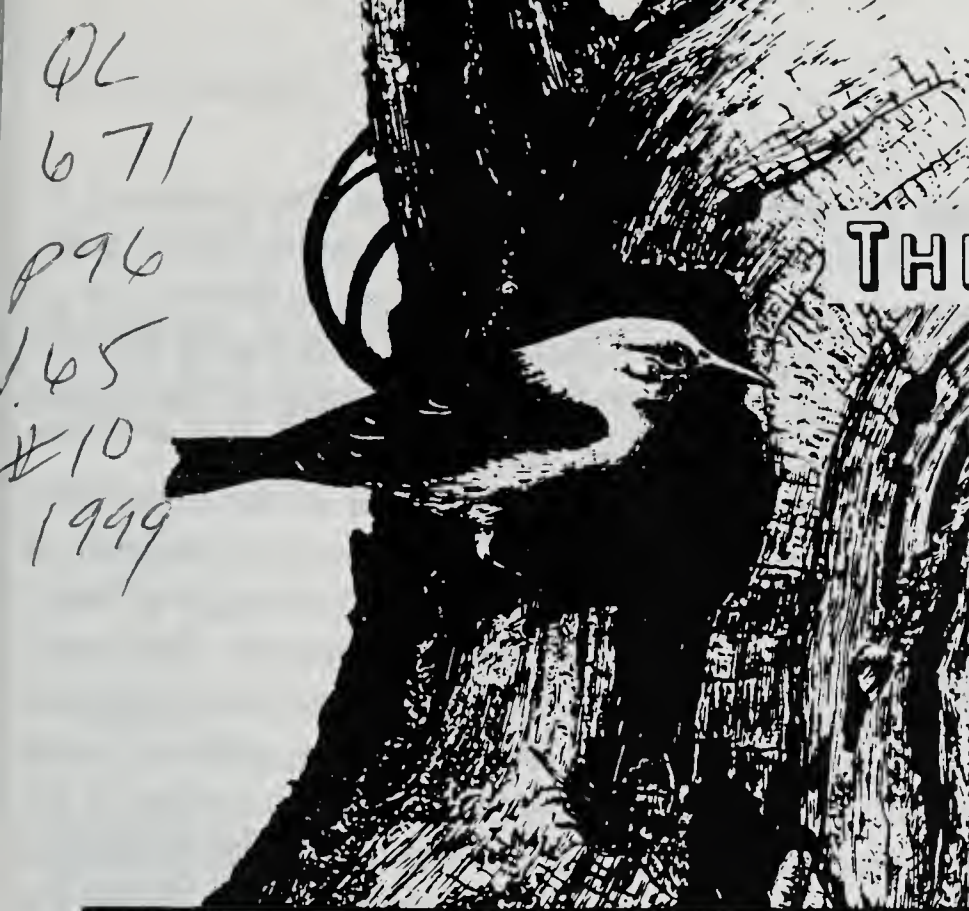
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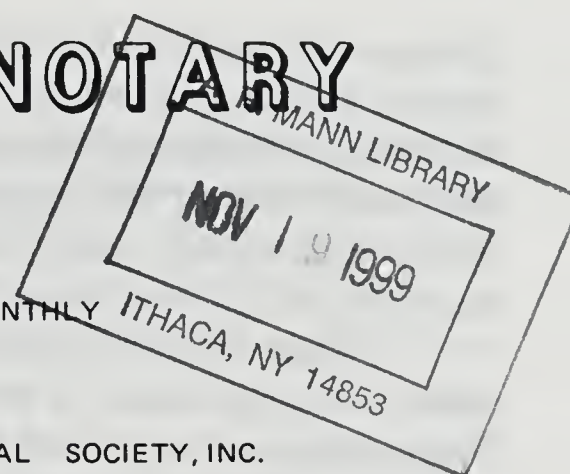
# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

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## THE MONTH: September, 1999

The "five-month long" summer of 1999 continued almost unabated through a generally fine September across the Niagara Frontier. The month started very warm, cooled mid-way, and then heated up again during the final week. Overall it was a warm and sunny month with near normal rainfall. The average temperature of 64.3°F. was 2.4°F. above normal, enough to make this the warmest September in 28 years. The first six days reached the 80's and the monthly total of nine days reaching these proportions was more than the seven recorded during August. No temperature records were established. Rainfall varied considerably across the area. The Buffalo Airport total of 3.95 inches was a touch above normal. However, in Niagara County the totals were half that, whereas areas south and east of Buffalo received well over four inches. The bulk of the rain fell in three events with over a third of the monthly total falling in a few hours on September 7, which set a daily precipitation record. Rain fell often enough through the month to somewhat alleviate the drought conditions. Total sunshine amounted to about 59% of the possible. Lake Erie water temperatures stood at 67°F. at month's end, three degrees above the long term average. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet.)

The big weather events of September elsewhere in the Northeast and on the Atlantic Coast, tropical storms Dennis and Floyd, had little affect on Western New York, although the heavy rains on September 7 were caused by the remnants of Dennis. Gone went the hopes and dreams of many field ornithologists that these storms would produce a drop-down of unusual seabirds on Lake Erie such as has happened occasionally within recent memory. All of the Sandwich Terns, tropicbirds, frigatebirds, petrels, and shearwaters that were carried to distant points by these storms completely missed our local waters. Instead, Western New York birders experienced a rather normal and somewhat uneventful September.

Double-crested Cormorant populations continued their upward spiral in the Lake Erie region; some were still at their nests during the first week of the month on the water intake structures above the Peace Bridge. The Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge attracted a high count of 22 Great Egrets on September 27 and the following day produced an early Snow Goose, neither of which were unexpected considering the high continental populations of these species that continuously expand their ranges, both time-wise and space-wise.



Oldsquaws continued to be reported from the north shore of Lake Erie where shorebirds also continued to occupy habitats exposed by the lower than normal water levels in the Great Lakes. Rock Point Provincial Park, Ontario, again attracted the most interesting shorebird species - a late Whimbrel, an uncommon Willet, and an even more uncommon Long-billed Dowitcher as well as a high count of 23 Forster's Terns - all during the first week of the month. Away from the Great Lakes, the Upper Silver Creek Reservoir in Chautauqua County and the ponds at St. David's and Avondale, Ontario, all produced a number of interesting records.

When the writer first began birding in the Niagara Frontier in the mid 1940's, one of the September treats was to go down to the Peace Bridge area in Buffalo in order to witness the many, many thousands of Purple Martins that roosted yearly on the bridge supports each evening. This, combined with the sight of many hundreds of Black Terns feeding over the rushing waters of the river, made for many memorable field trips. But now in the late 1990's things have changed; the much reduced populations of Purple Martins no longer use the Peace Bridge as a gathering place; the Black Tern, a threatened species in New York State, seldom is seen in any numbers anywhere on the Niagara River. But 1999 had a comparable assemblage of avian visitors to the Peace Bridge area of the Niagara River - an estimated one thousand Chimney Swifts! The writer was privileged to witness many hundreds of these interesting birds as they fed all over the sky and commonly just above the water on a rather blustery and windy late September day. It brought back memories of past times when sometimes the numbers of certain species were astonishing as they fed on the abundant insect life that the Niagara River produces during the course of a year.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were distributed in moderate numbers throughout the region where they were frequently reported at feeders. Warblers put on a good show with the 17 species noted on September 21 at the Tifft Nature Preserve in Buffalo, a remarkable total. With reference to the observation of a Wild Turkey at the Tifft Preserve, where else within the confines of the Queen City of the Lakes does this species reside? What will the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 project find? The lone Evening Grosbeak observed at Lewiston on September 24 is hopefully a precursor to a noteworthy "winter finch season". There have been numerous records in the Northeast already and some folks have called it one of the best seasons so far since about 1994-95.

One of the more valuable and useful ornithological studies in Western New York has been that undertaken by Arthur Clark over the years as he has carefully recorded bird mortality at the high television towers in the Towns of Colden and Wales. 1999 was Art's 33rd year of the project and his data combined with that obtained by a few other persons prior to his time has been extremely helpful in evaluating bird migration through the area. Art participated in a panel discussion of avian tower mortality at the recent American Ornithologists' Union meeting at Cornell University and at a Washington, D.C. meeting of several federal agencies concerned with bird mortality. Movements of birds past high towers and the subsequent mortality often goes unnoticed by the average observer on his field trips. Much interest in avian tower mortality has recently been kindled elsewhere in New York State and on a national level because of the excessive number of towers that are planned for the immediate future years as the communications age unfolds - something like 500 more towers in New York State alone by the year 2005! In September 1999 Art found 72 dead birds of 22 species on six dates, with the highest being 34 individuals on Sept. 15-16 and 20 birds on September 21. Among the eleven species of warblers noted were single Connecticut Warblers on September 8, 15, and 21. Other species of interest were a single American Bittern on September 21 and single Soras on September 8 and 21.

Richard C. Rosche



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	<u>7</u>	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
Horned Grebe	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
"	26	3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
D.-crested Cormorant	9;28	1052;500	Buffalo	Watson; Yoerg
"	12	400	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	850	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Andrle
Great Egret	19;27	11;22	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick; Holmes
Black-cr. Night-Heron	10	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Andrle
Snow Goose	<u>28F</u>	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Sowinski
Northern Shoveler	13	2	Times Beach, Buffalo	Galas et al
"	14	1	Tifft N.P.	Chilton
"	19	48	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Klick
Ring-necked Duck	19F	4	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
"	19F	4	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Klick
Lesser Scaup	4	2	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
"	19	3	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
Oldsquaw	<u>5;7</u>	1;1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg; Klick
Common Merganser	4	12	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
"	9	7	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson
Ruddy Duck	19	17	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
"	26	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Osprey	9	1	Wheatfield	Galas
"	12	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	18	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	19	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Goshawk	<u>24</u>	1	Niagara	S. O'Donnell
"	<u>27</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick
Merlin	12;19	1;1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg; Murr, Bajurny
"	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Morgante, Klick

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Peregrine Falcon	27	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Wild Turkey	15	1	Tifft N.P.	Mueller (EABC)
Black-bellied Plover	5	43	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Golden-Plover	6	1	Avondale WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Niag. Falls Airport	Morgante
Semipalmated Plover	18	2	St. David's, Ont.	Cooper
Solitary Sandpiper	24	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	27	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Holmes
Willet	4	1	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
Upland Sandpiper	6	8	Avondale WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Whimbrel	7L	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Sowinski
Red Knot	5;9	3;3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Watson
"	5	4	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna
Sanderling	7	27	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick
"	17	6	Sheridan	Neveu
"	19	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Klick
"	19	15	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
White-r. Sandpiper	5	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7;9	1;2	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick; Watson
Baird's Sandpiper	5;7	1;2	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Klick
"	5	5	Bertie, Ont.	D'Anna
"	5	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Dunlin	9F	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson
"	25	2	Grantham, Ont.	D'Anna
Stilt Sandpiper	5	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Watson(BOS)
"	6	1	Avondale WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	St. David's, Ont.	Cooper
Short-b. Dowitcher	5	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Watson(BOS)
"	7	3	Grabell Pt., Ont.	Klick
"	7	4	Port Colborne, Ont.	Klick
"	9	5	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson
*Long-b. Dowitcher	7	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick
Common Snipe	6,12	2,10	Avondale WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	3	St. David's, Ont.	Cooper
Bonaparte's Gull	9	116	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Watson
"	13	325	Goat Island	Klick
Caspian Tern	8	17	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	10	12	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	25	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	D'Anna
"	25	3	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D'Anna
"	30	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Galas, Watson



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Forster's Tern	4,19	<u>23,5</u>	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	13	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas, Watson
"	15;19	1;1	Goat Island	Roberson; D'Anna, Welte
Common Nighthawk	4	19	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
"	8	5	Tonawanda	Hess
"	15	1	Goat Island	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	2	Amherst	Morgante
"	28	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Chimney Swift	30	<u>1000</u>	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson et al
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Red-headed Wdpkr.	12	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	22	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	7	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	13	1	Lewiston	Cooper, Farrell
"	20	1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	26L	1	Charlotte	Rew
"	26L	1	Wheatfield	Potter
Least Flycatcher	5	1	Como Park	Morgante
<u>Empidonax</u> species	24	2	Hanover	Neveu
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	25L	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
Eastern Kingbird	4	1	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
"	6L	4	Tillman W.M.A.	Morgante
Blue-headed Vireo	20	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	21	1	Tonawanda	Galas, Watson
Warbling Vireo	25L	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Philadelphia Vireo	10;25	1;1	Goat Island	D'Anna; Roberson
"	22	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1	Wheatfield	Potter
Common Raven	4	2	<u>Charlotte</u>	Rew
"	29,30	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Barn Swallow	27	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Holmes
Red-br. Nuthatch	24	4	Hanover	Neveu
Carolina Wren	11-25	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	12	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	2	Sheridan	Neveu
House Wren	25	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	27	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick
Winter Wren	18	9	Wilson & Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	8	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Golden-cr. Kinglet	18F	3	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	2	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	17F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	18	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	14	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	27L	1	Point Gratiot	Neveu
Veery	22L	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Gray-cheeked Thrush	7F;18	1;1	Tonawanda	Hess; Watson
"	14,22	1,2	Snyder	Klick
"	17	1	Tifft N.P.	Chilton
"	18	6	Wilson & Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	20,23,27	1,2,3 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
Swainson's Thrush	22	1	Buffalo	Mueller
"	30	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Watson et al
Hermit Thrush	18F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	18F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Mockingbird	3,18	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Brown Thrasher	18	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	22	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
American Pipit	19F	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
"	20	10	Pomfret	Neveu
Cedar Waxwing	28	110	Eden Valley	Andrle
Blue-winged Warbler	4,7L	2,2	Amity	Pitzrick
Orange-cr. Warbler	22,25	1,1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	25	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	D'Anna
"	25	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
"	26	1	Niagara Falls	S. O'Donnell
Northern Parula	3,5	1,2	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
"	18,22	1,1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	29	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Yellow Warbler	13;25	1;1	Tifft N.P.	Watson; Yoerg
Chestnut-s. Warbler	25	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
Cape May Warbler	11,27	3,2	Goat Island	Roberson
"	26	2	Niagara Falls	S. O'Donnell
"	30	2	Times Beach, Buffalo	Galas et al
Pine Warbler	14F,15	1,1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	4	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S. O'Donnell
Prairie Warbler	1L	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Palm Warbler	14F	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	22	1	Lewiston	Cooper, Farrell
Ovenbird	26	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Hooded Warbler	27L	1	Point Gratiot	Neveu



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Wilson's Warbler	5	3	Tifft N.P.	Watson(BOS)
"	19	1	Hanover	Neveu
Canada Warbler	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Lewiston	Cooper, Farrell
Scarlet Tanager	24	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	25	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	D'Anna
Lincoln's Sparrow	22F	3	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
White-thr. Sparrow	15F	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	18	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	18	2	Goat Island	Roberson
White-cr. Sparrow	19F	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	22	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Dark-eyed Junco	18F	3	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	2	Snyder	Klick
Rose-br. Grosbeak	19	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Indigo Bunting	25	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
Rusty Blackbird	19F	2	Rock Point P.P.	Murr, Bajurny
"	26	10	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Baltimore Oriole	15L	2	Amity Lake (f)	Pitzrick
*Evening Grosbeak	24F	1	Lewiston	Horne

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	263
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue .....	2
Total for year .....	265

**FIELD TRIP TO CANADIAN SHORE OF LAKE ERIE, AUGUST 22, 1999**

This BOS trip, led by Richard Byron, attracted 11 birders on a pleasant day to be out – it was 78 degrees and sunny. The first stop was at Jaeger Rocks where we had Common and Caspian Terns, four gull species and several shorebird species such as Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers and Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers. No Purple Martins were seen.

The next stop was at the pond at the south end of Cement Road. This road is a mile west of Port Colborne, Ontario, reached by a left turn off Highway 3. The pond is connected to nearby Lake Erie and, like the lake, is low this year and so has large mud flats. On hand were Blue-winged Teal, a Green Heron, a Great Blue Heron and a mixed flock of 50 shorebirds, none unusual. The four Stilt Sandpipers seen two days earlier had moved on. This pond is worth a stop.

At Rock Point Provincial Park the low lake level had exposed a hundred feet of the nearly flat limestone bedrock. Shorebirds were feeding in accumulations of "seaweed" near the water's edge. On hand were six Short-billed Dowitchers, six Ruddy Turnstones, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Semipalmated, Least and Spotted Sandpipers, four Sanderlings, Killdeer, Semipalmated and two Black-bellied Plovers. Also, there was a Starling or two in with the shorebirds. Double-crested Cormorants flew by in flocks of 20.



In the woods at Rock Point the warbler numbers were low but we found Yellow, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Pine and Black-and-white Warblers. Also found were Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher and Tree Swallow.

The sod farms, six miles northeast of Rock Point, were back again in the sod business, having switched from the corn and soy of recent years. The fields on Poth Road had 40 Black-bellied Plovers and a like number of Killdeer. Several Horned Larks and Savannah Sparrows were also in the fields.

Other birds seen were two Red-tailed Hawks, an American Kestrel and Turkey Vultures. The species total was 48, and the list seems to be lacking a Robin.

Bill Burch

### **Field Trip to Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach**

September 5th was a pleasant partly cloudy day. Although viewing conditions were excellent, with almost no wind, birds were very scarce and the 12 members of the field trip recorded only 44 species of birds.

We had seven species of warblers: Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler (3), NORTHERN PARULA (2), Magnolia Warbler (4), American Redstart, and Blackburnian Warbler. At Tifft Nature Preserve we also saw Great Blue Heron (2), Green Heron (3), Black-crowned Night-Heron, Blue-winged Teal (4), Wood Duck (2), several Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Flicker (2) and many friendly Black-capped Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatches.

At Times Beach a long and difficult walk along the breakwall rewarded the six remaining members of the field trip with a much closer look at two Lesser Yellowlegs, about six Least Sandpipers, 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers, five Semipalmated Plovers, a Short-billed Dowitcher, and a STILT SANDPIPER. At Times Beach we also added Herring Gull, Barn Swallow, Belted Kingfisher, and American Kestrel to our list. Because the number of birds was low, we had plenty of time to study and enjoy the few birds that we did see, allowing for a pleasant and congenial morning.

William Watson

### **HAWK CLIFF, ONTARIO, AGAIN BECOMES FAVORED VIEWING SITE.**

The problems at the Hawk Cliff raptor viewing site have been overcome, making it considerably better than the new Port Burwell site described earlier (see the July 1999 issue of *The Prothonotary*, Vol. 65, p. 91).

The farmer's willow trees, now a dense screen 50 feet high and 100 yards long and intended as a windbreak, had completely blocked the view toward the east from the dirt road where birders would sit in their lawn chairs. In the new agreement the farmer has allowed access to the field. A gate has been placed so that birders can walk in and sit in a cordoned-off area 35 feet wide by 70 yards long with their backs to the trees. If anything this is better than the old in-road spot. This came about through efforts of the Hawk Cliff Foundation and local businesses.

On September 16, seven birders from Buffalo went to Port Burwell, hoping that the north wind left over from Hurricane Floyd would produce a good flight. We were the only birders there. In parking lot 5 from 10:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. we had about 301 raptors, or 120 per hour. The best sighting was three Sandhill Cranes flying northeast, perhaps from the region.

Early in the afternoon we decided to visit Hawk Cliff (20 miles west) to view the desolation. To our surprise, there were 20 cars and 35 birders in chairs against the trees. The Foundation had a display board with hats and



shirts offered, and a counting team. Two portable toilets were available. It was like old times. This was a weekday but they had had no problem handling a big crowd on the weekend. Crumbling of the dirt cliff at Lake Erie did call for blocking off the last 50 yards of the road, eliminating some parking spots.

The Thursday flight here was better than at Port Burwell. Between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. they had 1600 raptors, or 200 per hour. The first Broad-winged Hawk sighting had been three on Sept. 11. The Thursday tally was: Osprey 4, Bald Eagle 4, Northern Harrier 37, Sharp-shinned Hawk 786, Cooper's Hawk 7, Broad-winged Hawk 400, Red-tailed Hawk 7, American Kestrel 351, Merlin 2, Peregrine Falcon 2.

The Friday (September 17) flight at Hawk Cliff was even larger. From 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. they had 3216 raptors, or 536 per hour. By 1:00 p.m. the north wind, never as strong as hoped for, was dropping and hawks were passing miles inland, so we departed. The tally at 1:00 pm was: Osprey 3, Bald Eagle 5, Northern Harrier 104, Sharp-shinned Hawk 500, Cooper's Hawk 6, Broad-winged Hawk 2500, Red-tailed Hawk 8, American Kestrel 84.

The weather both days was excellent - 68° and mixed blue sky and clouds. The joy of the watch is partly in counting hawks but more so in admiring them. The field, recently disked and planted in rye grass, caught the attention of the Northern Harriers and they rocked their way across it, searching for a meadow vole snack. The low-flying male Kestrels revealed the row of translucent wing spots at times, and when the sun caught them right, it gave the entire rear quarter of the wings a bright translucence. It was a good day for hawks and watchers.

Bill Burch

## ATLAS 2000

New York State's second breeding bird atlas project called ATLAS 2000 is about to begin in the spring of 2000 and continue for the next five years. Much remains to be done in the coming few months, such as hiring the State Coordinator who is to be officed in Albany, the printing of the Handbook for Workers, and the preparation and distribution of maps. However, some activity can take place at the present time in preparation for the 2000 breeding season which begins in January with the Great Horned Owl nesting activity. As the Region 1 Project Coordinator, in the next few months I shall be visiting the various bird clubs in the Region and inviting participation by everyone who is able and willing to devote their time to the project. If you have a favorite territory that you would like to work for the Atlas Project, now is the time to let me know. It is particularly important that individuals who worked on the project in the early 1980's cover the same blocks of land this time, if at all possible. In order to be successful and a useful comparison to the data in the first atlas, full coverage by as many observers as possible will be required.

Richard C. Rosche  
110 Maple Rd.  
East Aurora, NY 14052  
(716) 652-8409  
e-mail: drosche@juno.com

## Dues Reminder

Dues for next year, 2000, are due by December 15, 1999. The dues notice is included in this issue. There will be no separate notice mailed to you. This is to reduce cost and save paper. Please respond soon!

## **Membership Update**

Welcome the following new member:

Dolores W. Seamans  
8433 Stringham Drive  
Batavia, NY 14020  
716-344-3924

## **BOS MEETINGS**

### **NEW BOS MEETINGS FORMAT!**

At the BOS meeting of October 27, 1999 it was agreed that, starting with the first meeting in January, 2000 we will:

- 1) start with the program, followed by bird sighting reports and conclude with business and
- 2) experiment with having a formal program at the first meeting of each month only and a more flexible structure for the second monthly meeting.

The purpose of this experiment is to see if we can both shorten the duration of meetings and provide more variety and opportunity in their content.

Mike Hamilton, President

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-8040).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

Dec. 8: Our speaker will be Bob Budliger, a former DEC employee and past president of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs. Our annual Holiday Celebration will follow.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Nov. 21: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester G.O.S. for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of the G.O.S. and Bob Brock of the B.O.S. (876-5862).

Dec. 5: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti. Leader: Mike Morgante (683-4819).

Dec. 18: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Bill Michalek (437-3228, daytime).



- Dec. 19: Sunday. B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781). (His 17<sup>th</sup> year.)
- Dec. 27 Monday. Oak Orchard Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Gail Seamans (762-9211, daytime; 762-8040, evenings).
- Dec. 27: Monday. Niagara Falls, Ont.-NY Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Kayo Roy (1-905-892-4433).
- Jan. 2: Sunday. Hamburg-East Aurora Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Brendon Klick (839-1792).
- Jan. 16: Sunday. Waterfowl Count of Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. This is the target date, but any date between January 15 and 23, inclusive, is acceptable. Compiler: Bill Burch (773-3690).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: ChasHal@AOL.com

#### **Dues Reminder**

Dues for next year, 2000, are due by December 15, 1999. The dues notice is included in this issue. There will be no separate notice mailed to you. This is to reduce cost and save paper. Please respond soon!





**Buffalo Ornithological Society...ANNUAL DUES NOTICE (10/13/99-10/11/00)**

Membership levels:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00 ARTIC TERN (Corresponding/Subscribing) The long distance migrants.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (Active/Associate-Individual) The ever  
present worker and backbone of the society.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 AMERICAN CROW (Active/Associate-Family) You never see just one.

For those who want to give more:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Always scratching for a little more.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75.00 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH One that has put something aside for  
the future.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 WILD TURKEY A large nest of eggs to give from.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 GREAT HORNED OWL Able to cough up a little more.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 BAL EAGLE Our national symbol, the top of the raptor world.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AXTELL/McVEY/WENDLING FUND... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are payable in U.S. Funds to **BOS**. Please respond by **December 15, 1999** to:

Lynne Landon, Treasurer  
139 Jackson St.  
Youngstown, NY 14174

PLEASE CHECK IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE\_\_\_OR DROP\_\_\_MEMBERSHIP

**THANK YOU**

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

**Deadline: 10 January 2000**

The Buffalo Ornithological Society makes annual monetary grants in support of ornithological projects, research and study. The support for these grants comes from the Special Projects Fund.

**Grant Categories**

1. Ornithological studies / research projects
2. Projects such as bird habitat preservation and nesting projects
3. Funding for college undergraduate and graduate projects

**Eligibility**

Persons and organizations residing in the BOS study area dedicated to birds and their welfare.

1. Ornithological societies, bird clubs or groups in which bird concerns are an integral part
2. Individuals, both BOS members and nonmembers
3. College students including those attending out of area schools
  - a. Must have a faculty sponsor

**Grant amounts**

1. Applicants may request grants up to \$700.00
2. The actual amount awarded will be recommended by the Special Projects Fund Advisory Committee based on funds available, proposal quality and monetary requirements of the project.
3. Requests may be made for continued funding of previously approved projects

**Project completion**

1. When the proposed project has been completed, the grant recipient must make a written report to the Society.
2. The grant recipient may be required to present or participate in a program on the subject before the BOS membership at a regular meeting.

Mail application to: Buffalo Ornithological Society-Special Projects Fund  
Buffalo Museum of Science Buffalo, NY 14211



*Buffalo Ornithological Society*

**GRANT APPLICATION**

**Deadline:** 10 January 2000

Check one:    Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_\_\_ College Student \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone-Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work/School-(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Project proposal:** The proposal should have a title and be as detailed as possible, describing rationale, goals, methods, equipment, materials, personnel, schedule, etc. Type the proposal on a separate sheet and attach to this application.

**Project budget:** A separate itemized project budget should be attached to the application.

**Total amount requested:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Planned completion date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If this grant is approved, I (we) agree to make a full written report to the BOS describing in detail the results of the study or project. I understand that I may also be required to present the results before a regular meeting of the Society. If for any reason this proposal cannot be carried out, I will return all funds to the BOS.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Students Only

**Faculty sponsor:** Please attach a reference letter from your faculty sponsor verifying your ability to carry out the proposed project and verifying his or her commitment to oversee your work.

Faculty sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

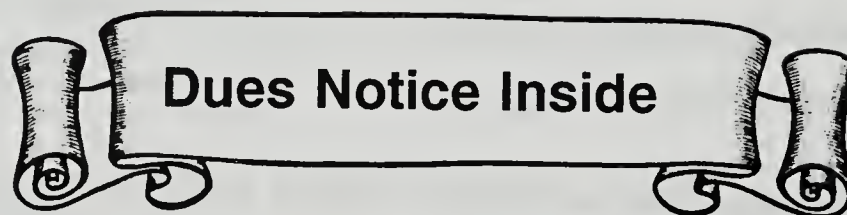
Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
Buffalo, NY 14211

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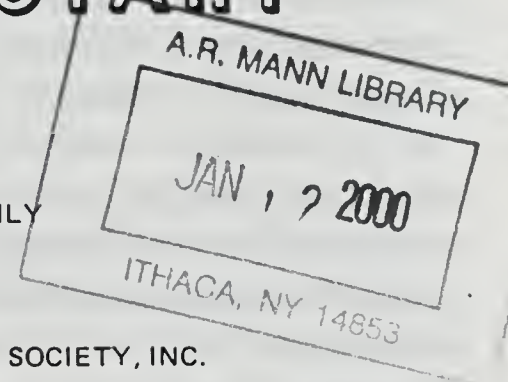
# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK



Volume 65

November, 1999

Number 11

## THE MONTH: October, 1999

October lived up to its reputation as THE typical autumn month in Western New York. There were plenty of bright crisp days, just enough rain, and typical Indian Summer weather at the end of the month. The average temperature at Buffalo International Airport was 50.1°F, about a degree cooler than usual. However, inland in the southern tier at Amity Lake near Belmont, Allegany County, temperatures were 7.4°F. above the long term average. There was an early frost and freeze on October 7, about two weeks earlier than usual in the Buffalo metropolitan region, but a month late at Amity Lake in Allegany County. Rainfall was spotty, there being a slightly below normal three inches at Buffalo, but much less elsewhere in the region. The most rain fell on October 13, throughout the region.

Surface soil moisture remained adequate, but subsoil moisture and water tables were still somewhat lower than the average. About 51% of the possible sunshine was evident in the Buffalo area; 11 days were mostly sunny while 10 days were mostly cloudy. Lake Erie cooled to 54°F. at month's end, exactly normal.

There were two main weather events during October. Strong to severe thunderstorms swept through the area late on October 13. This was an unusually widespread event for so late in the season as a sharp cold front crossed the region, sending temperatures plunging over 30 degrees in a period of six hours. Hail and severe wind damage was prevalent in Niagara and southern Erie County. The other major weather event was the fine spell of Indian Summer type weather during the last several days of the month, which was responsible for a temperature of 73°F. on October 30, just a degree shy of the record for that date. (Meteorological data for the Buffalo area provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* as posted on the Internet; Allegany County data courtesy of Vivian Pitzrick)

Soft-fruited shrubs and vines held an unusually abundant crop during the autumn season. Wild grapes (*Vitis* sp.), Gray Dogwood (*Cornus foemina* ssp. *racemosa*), and various species of viburnums (*Viburnum* sp.) were unusually laden with fruit. One might surmise that these abundant fruits combined with a mild winter might encourage above normal numbers of berry-eating birds to overwinter in Western New York. Conversely, a relatively poor coniferous cone crop was evident throughout the region. Small mammal populations appeared to be about normal with the onset of late autumn.



There were many indications during October that Western New York and other southern climes might experience a "BOREAL WINTER". The on-going drought in the north country may have caused poor reproduction of all kinds of bird food, from berries to seeds, to small mammals. As a result October saw the beginning of a massive irruption to the south of almost all boreal species of birds, with the possible exception of the northern woodpeckers. Many of these are reported below in the Noteworthy Records. A few species appeared to be fairly common farther south but apparently missed our area or were just not reported. Indications were evident that Snowy and Short-eared Owls were on the move south. Northern Saw-whet Owls staged a massive southward migration, mostly indicated by banding totals from elsewhere as reported on the Internet: 70 banded at Freeport, Maine up to October 5; 65 banded in one night on October 26-27 near Turkey Point, Ontario; close to 1000 banded at Thunder Bay and Long Point, Ontario; and in central Pennsylvania 140 were banded up to October 24. One of our younger B.O.S. members wishing to make his mark on Western New York ornithology might well consider doing a study of the Saw-whet that covers all seasons of the year. An October 24, 1999 Internet report by Scott Weidensaul of Schuylkill Haven, Pa. outlined his method for attracting migrating birds to his banding station as follows: "If you're interested in trying to find a Saw-whet on your own, try a calm, dark night after the passage of a cold front, when the strong winds finally die down - at least, these are the nights they respond best to our audiolure. We've had good success on or along ridges in thick forest. You can use a tape or just whistle an imitation of their "toot" call. (I only recommend using a tape during the nonbreeding season). I'd sit patiently in the dark for at least half an hour, waiting and listening - but don't expect to hear an answering toot the way other owls reply. Saw-whets are quiet and secretive which is why I think they are usually overlooked. Listen for sounds like a growling, mewling cat, musical trills, bill-snapping or a very soft, faint toot. Then use your flashlight. If it's a heavy flight night, don't be surprised if your calling attracts a number of owls. As to volume - we play our tapes quite loud - research at other stations shows that the louder the tape, the more owls they catch, perhaps because it draws them from a wider area."

Chickadees, both Black-capped and Boreal, showed early signs of moving southward in higher than usual numbers but this movement apparently did not reach Western New York or the north shore of Lake Erie. The results of 64 years of October Bird Counts in B.O.S. territory indicated about normal numbers present. The Red-breasted Nuthatch continued to be widespread in small numbers, but the majority of them apparently moved farther south. Bohemian Waxwings staged a massive southeastward movement from their usual haunts and a few reached the southern shore of Lake Ontario in Western New York where they are always very rare. Northern Shrikes were more common and widespread than in the average year. All of the northern finches belonging to the Family Fringillidae were on the move during October. Some were reported in Western New York but the majority apparently moved farther south, thus reflecting the scarcity of coniferous seeds in our area as well as in the north country. The majority of the Western New York October finch records came from feeding stations. Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were about normal in abundance and distribution for late October in Western New York, but there were indications of the bunting moving farther southward on the Atlantic Coast than during the normal winter season.

Closer to home October saw some good waterfowl movements along the south shore of Lake Ontario as noted below. Dominant species included the Red-throated and Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Brant, and all species of scoters. There were also a number of jaeger observations from areas on the south shore of Lake Ontario in B.O.S. territory; just a short distance to the east at Hamlin Beach State Park, up to 125 jaegers had been recorded up to November 6, according to Internet sources. Niagara River Double-crested Cormorant populations continued to grow as did the number of Great Egrets noted at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, the 33 egrets on October 3 being a regional high count. It is interesting to think about the possibility that the Iroquois Refuge egrets represent an eastward post-breeding dispersal from the Motor Island nesting site in the Niagara River since both populations are steadily increasing yearly. Or is this merely a coincidence? The



two October Bird Count Glossy Ibis were found by Gerald and Nina Chapple "one kilometer east on Bains Road, off Regional Road 20, southeast of Kohler, Ontario". These rare birds were again seen on October 11 by a number of other Ontario birders. This is another of the more typically southern species that continues to expand its range northward into the Northeast. How many more Ruddy Ducks can crowd on the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant lagoons?

The "Richardson's Goose" (*B.c.hutchinsii*) represents a small-sized population of more western Canada Geese that breed in the high arctic and winter on the Gulf of Mexico coast in Texas and Mexico. Their usual migration path takes them through Manitoba, the eastern Dakotas, eastern Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas, with smaller numbers regularly passing through areas farther east. Professional biologists often refer to this group as the "Tall Grass Population" of the Canada Goose. There are increasing reports every year from eastern areas where the subspecies was previously almost unknown in past years. This autumn the writer was aware of reports from adjacent nearby Ontario as well as other localized sites in the Northeast. The reasons for the increasing number of extralimital observations farther east are unknown at present since this population is believed to have remained relatively stable during the past ten years.

Of special interest was the Loggerhead Shrike that was seen in Somerset, Niagara Co. There are very few reports of this species in recent years from the local area as well as from large sections of its former range in the United States. The Brewer's Blackbird, an adult male, was the first Wyoming County record of this western straggler.

Richard C. Rosche

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	21F	3	Shadigee	Morgante
"	25;30	23;35	Somerset	Klick; Morgante et al
"	31	10	Olcott	Skalicky
Common Loon	4	1	Somerset	Klick
"	17	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
"	30	300	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
Pied-billed Grebe	3	29	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Klick
Horned Grebe	9	3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	21	20	Shadigee	Morgante
"	24	17	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	100	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna(BOS)

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-necked Grebe	31	1	Olcott	Skalicky
D.-crested Cormorant	1	800	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	6	819	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson, Galas
"	29	1	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	30	7	Somerset	Morgante et al
American Bittern	17L	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
Least Bittern	<u>30L</u>	1	Chautauqua	Berry
Great Egret	3,8	33,15	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Watson
"	6	1	North Harmony	Neveu
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
Turkey Vulture	31L	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
Snow Goose	2,24	1,7	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	17	5	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Harris
"	19	1	Dayton	Neveu
"	29	1	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Canada Goose				
<i>B. c. hutchinsii</i>	21	<u>28</u>	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Brant	18F	450	Golden Hill S.P.	Chilton
"	18F	190	Olcott	Chilton
"	24	1045	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	24	80	Shadigee	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	4,17	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
(banded, origin unknown)				
Tundra Swan	23	13	Pomfret	Mosher
"	29	7	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
American Wigeon	3	220	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Klick
American Black Duck	3,23	32,50	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Blue-winged Teal	29	15	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Northern Shoveler	2,24	<u>116,300</u>	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Seamans(BOS)
Green-winged Teal	23	113	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Canvasback	31F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
Redhead	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	2	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	9	6	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
"	17	6	Lowbanks, Ont.	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	2,23	2,15	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	2	4	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	29	325	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Greater Scaup	2;23	1;1	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna; Seamans
"	17	450	Lowbanks, Ont.	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	2,23	2,63	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Surf Scoter	4F;21;25	2;6;45	Somerset	Klick; Morgante; Klick
"	17	2	Lowbanks, Ont.	D'Anna
"	17;24	1;2	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Seamans(BOS)



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Surf Scoter	21	7	Shadigee	Morgante
"	30	2	Beaver Is. S.P.	Guthrie
White-winged Scoter	24	3	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Black Scoter	4	5	Shadigee	Klick
"	17	2	Lowbanks, Ont.	D'Anna
"	24;25	10;105	Somerset	Morgante et al; Klick
"	26	2	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Chilton
Oldsquaw	21;24	8;17	Somerset	Morgante; D'Anna
Bufflehead	23F;24	14;37	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Seamans(BOS)
"	24	42	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Goldeneye	2F;8	1;1	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al; Watson
"	24	27	Somerset	D'Anna et al
Hooded Merganser	21;31	53;56	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante; Klick
"	29	23	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Common Merganser	23,24	66,50	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Ruddy Duck	2;5;23	240;456;780	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna; Seamans; Morgante
"	2,21	6,7	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	17;31	22;24	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	29	125	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Osprey	2	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	4	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	4	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	21L	1	Sinking Ponds N.P.	Holmes
Bald Eagle	2,21	1,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	3	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Klick
"	6	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	17	1 imm.	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	1 ad.	Dayton	Neveu
"	18,24	1,2	Sheridan	Neveu
"	24	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante, Vallone
"	29	1 imm.	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Broad-winged Hawk	3	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Rough-legged Hawk	21	1	Bliss	K&J Fox
"	24,30	5,5	Yates & Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	24	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	29	3	Golden Hill S.P.	Chilton
"	31	1	Olcott	Skalicky
Merlin	6	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Peregrine Falcon	6	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	19	1	Olcott	Chilton
Common Moorhen	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
American Coot	8;31	127;220	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson; Klick
"	30	250	Beaver Is. S.P.	Guthrie
Black-bellied Plover	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Amer. Golden-Plover	21	6	Somerset	Morgante
"	24	2	Wilson	Skalicky, Davis
Greater Yellowlegs	24	12	Batavia WWTP	Seamans(BOS)
"	27	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	31	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Lesser Yellowlegs	11	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	21;31	3;2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante; Klick
Solitary Sandpiper	6	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Semipalm. Sandpiper	23L	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Pectoral Sandpiper	21;30	27;6	Yates	Morgante; D'Anna(BOS)
Dunlin	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	16	2	Sheridan	Neveu
"	25	45	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
"	29	1	Attica	R&D Rosche
Common Snipe	18;21	1;2	Yates	Chilton; Morgante
"	27,29	12,16	Attica	R&D Rosche
Red-necked Phalarope	3,5	1,1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
*Parasitic Jaeger	25	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
*Jaeger species	24	1	Yates	Morgante
"	24	1	Somerset	Yoerg
"	25	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
"	25	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg
Little Gull	1	1	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	1	Somerset	Chilton
Bonaparte's Gull	23,24	4,3	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1	5	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Tern	24	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	2	Beaver Is. S.P.	Guthrie
Forster's Tern	25	1	Niagara Falls	R. Rosche
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	6	1 window kill	Jamestown	Berry
Chimney Swift	2	4	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	2	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante, D'Anna
Eastern Wood-Pewee	8L	2	Goat Island	Roberson
Northern Shrike	24F;25	2;3	Yates	D'Anna et al; Klick
"	27	1	Porter	S. O'Donnell
"	28	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	31	1	Warsaw	Kunze
*Loggerhead Shrike	17	1	Somerset	S&T O'Donnell
Blue-headed Vireo	17L	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Skalicky
"	17L	1	Salamanca	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Raven	23	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Tree Swallow	24L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Tree Swallow	24L	1	Sheridan	Neveu
N. Rough-w. Swallow	2	54	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
Barn Swallow	3L	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick
Tufted Titmouse	11	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Carolina Wren	2	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	7,13,21	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	11	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	3	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	30	1	Shadigee	Morgante, Guthrie
"	30	2	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna(BOS)
Marsh Wren	17	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Harris
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	30	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4,5,10	2,1,1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	5	1	Tift N.P.	Chilton
"	6	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Swainson's Thrush	1,4,9	3,1,1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
Wood Thrush	1	1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
Gray Catbird	31	1	Yates	Klick
Northern Mockingbird	6	1	Stockton	Neveu
"	17	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	18	1	Pomfret	Neveu
Brown Thrasher	1	1	Snyder	Klick
European Starling	31	6000	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
American Pipit	30	10	Yates	Morgante et al
*Bohemian Waxwing	30	10	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna(BOS), Watson
Orange-cr. Warbler	4	1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	5	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
Magnolia Warbler	22L	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	24L	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Palm Warbler	16	4	Goat Island	Roberson
Bay-breasted Warbler	5	1	Tift N.P.	Chilton
"	11L	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Blackpoll Warbler	11L	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Hooded Warbler	5L	1	Tift N.P.	Chilton
Amer. Tree Sparrow	24	5	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Skalicky, Davis
Chipping Sparrow	25	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	26	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Fox Sparrow	5F,12,19	1,1,1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	25	5	Tonawanda	Watson
"	27	1	Orangeville	R&D Rosche
"	29;30	2;1	Warsaw	R&D Rosche; Kunze
"	31	2	Olcott	Skalicky
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Morgante
"	4	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
Swamp Sparrow	31	5	Olcott	Skalicky
Lapland Longspur	21F	6	Somerset	Morgante
"	30	4	Yates	Morgante, Guthrie
Snow Bunting	19F	20	Olcott	Chilton
"	24	3	Batavia WWTP	Seamans(BOS)
"	24	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg
"	25	180	Somerset	Klick, Yoerg
"	30	30	Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
Indigo Bunting	3L	1	Warsaw	Kunze
Rusty Blackbird	29	120	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Brewer's Blackbird	27	1	Orangeville	R&D Rosche
Common Grackle	21	2000	Pembroke	Morgante
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	500	Oakfield	Watson
Red Crossbill	31F	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
*Pine Siskin	2F	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, D'Anna
"	4;30	1;20	Somerset	Klick; D'Anna(BOS)
"	5,24,28	1,6,30	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
"	8-31	6	Warsaw	Kunze
"	17	10	Rock Point P.P.	Potter
"	19,23	2,3	Wethersfield	S. Junkin
"	25	5	Tonawanda	Chilton
"	27	6	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	29	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
American Goldfinch	30	200	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
Evening Grosbeak	29	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	30	2	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
"	30	2	Yates	D'Anna(BOS)

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	265
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue (including October Count).....	5
Total for year .....	270

### Statisticians' Note

If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for the decision.

### Dues Reminder

Dues for next year, 2000, are now due. The dues notice is included at the end this issue. There will be no separate notice mailed to you. This is to reduce cost and save paper. Please respond soon!



## Report of the 64th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 10, 1999

Compilers: Mike Hamilton, Gail Seamans, Terry Yonker

**Weather Synopsis:** On the morning of the count a low pressure area was located over northeastern Ohio and eventually moved through western New York and Buffalo during the afternoon. A cold front trailed southwest through Kentucky to Louisiana and a warm front stretched from the low through Pennsylvania. Another weaker Pacific cold front was making its way through the Great Lakes and eventually passed through the area late Sunday night. Most of the day was rain free, except for occasional mist patches and some drizzle. Winds were light from the southwest. In the northern and western sections of the count territory there was scattered sunshine. Temperatures remained in the 60's and reached 68 degrees at Niagara Falls by noon.

## Niagara Falls International Airport

Sunrise: 7:23 am edt

Sunset: 6:42 pm edt

Time:	Weather:	Temp:	Dew Pt.:	Pressure:	Dir/Wind:	Remarks:
9:00 am	Drizzle	62	60	30.01	SW 8	
12:00 pm	Partly cloudy	68	62	29.96	WSW 9	
3:00 pm		68	60	29.92	SW 11	
6:00 pm	Light drizzle	62	60	29.92	SW 11	
9:00 pm		62	59	29.94	SW 17	
12:00 am	Light rain	59	57	29.99	NNW 11	Cold front passage

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. F represents first and L last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

## LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon	8 (4,16)	Mallard	5418
Pied-billed Grebe	204	Blue-winged Teal	48
Horned Grebe	42	Northern Shoveler	159
Red-necked Grebe	1 (4)	Northern Pintail	83
Double-crested Cormorant	1002	Green-winged Teal	301
Great Blue Heron	192	<i>unspecified teal</i>	10 (10)
Great Egret	21 (5,24)	Redhead	51
Green Heron	L 4	Ring-necked Duck	22
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3 (2,10)	Greater Scaup	51 (2,14)
Glossy Ibis*	2 (6)	Lesser Scaup	233
Turkey Vulture	154	White-winged Scoter	F 97
Canada Goose	19075	Oldsquaw	F 1 (6)
Mute Swan (adults)	4 (3)	Common Goldeneye	5 (13)
Tundra Swan	F 1 (17)	Hooded Merganser	F 8 (3,5,26)
Wood Duck	461	Common Merganser	37
Gadwall	11	Red-breasted Merganser	24
American Wigeon	729	Ruddy Duck	251
American Black Duck	106	<i>unspecified waterfowl</i>	118 (4,5,13)

## OSPREYS - COOTS

Osprey	1 (8)	<i>Unspecified buteos</i>	1 (13)
Bald Eagle	6	American Kestrel	91
Northern Harrier	41	Merlin	3 (4,6,20)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	33	<i>unspecified falcons</i>	1 (10)
Cooper's Hawk	14	Ring-necked Pheasant	18
<i>Unspecified accipiters</i>	3 (12,13)	Ruffed Grouse	31
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	Wild Turkey	263
Broad-winged Hawk	L 2 (13)	Common Moorhen	L 1 (10)
Red-tailed Hawk	171	American Coot	1093
Rough-legged Hawk	F 1 (14)		

**PLOVERS – TERNS**

Black-bellied Plover	8 (2,6,7)	Dunlin	5 (13)
Semipalmated Plover	2 (8)	Common Snipe	46
Killdeer	792	American Woodcock	5 (19,28)
Greater Yellowlegs	24	Bonaparte's Gull	421
Lesser Yellowlegs	16	Ring-billed Gull	8863
Solitary Sandpiper	L 3 (17,20,23)	Herring Gull	611
Spotted Sandpiper	4 (2,8,13)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 (2)
Sanderling	1 (6)	Great Black-backed Gull	181
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2 (7)	Common Tern	37 (3,8,9)
Least Sandpiper	8 (7,23)	Forster's Tern	1 (8)
Pectoral Sandpiper	41		

**DOVES – SWALLOWS**

Rock Dove	2612	Pileated Woodpecker	9
Mourning Dove	3851	Eastern Wood-Pewee	L 1 (20)
Eastern Screech-Owl	6 (3,13)	Eastern Phoebe	73
Great Horned Owl	21	<i>unspecified empidonax species</i>	1 (1)
Barred Owl	1 (28)	Blue-headed Vireo	13
Short-eared Owl	1 (3)	Philadelphia Vireo	L 1 (28)
Chimney Swift	L 89 (2,9,11)	Red-eyed Vireo	L 3 (3,12,26)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	L 1 (15)	Blue Jay	1620
Belted Kingfisher	61	American Crow	3779
Red-bellied Woodpecker	59	Common Raven	27
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10	Horned Lark	34
Downy Woodpecker	300	Tree Swallow	206 (2,10)
Hairy Woodpecker	52	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	38 (2,16)
Northern Flicker	165		

**TITS - WAXWINGS**

Black-capped Chickadee	1830	Eastern Bluebird	313
Tufted Titmouse	75	Gray-cheeked Thrush	L 2 (12,20)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	136	Hermit Thrush	25
White-breasted Nuthatch	299	Wood Thrush	L 2 (14,26)
Brown Creeper	37	American Robin	3760
Carolina Wren	13	Gray Catbird	54
House Wren	L 2 (4,12)	Northern Mockingbird	27
Winter Wren	12	European Starling	33362
Golden-crowned Kinglet	572	American Pipit	199
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	376	Cedar Waxwing	1190
<i>unspecified kinglets</i>	10 (10,12)		

**WARBLERS**

Orange-crowned Warbler	L 4 (13)	Pine Warbler	L 3 (1,7)
Nashville Warbler	L 4 (11,12,17)	Palm Warbler	13
Chestnut-sided Warbler	L 1 (28)	Bay-breasted Warbler	1 (28)
Magnolia Warbler	6 (3,12,28)	Blackpoll Warbler	6
Cape May Warbler	L 1 (4)	Black-and-white Warbler	L 1 (26)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6	American Redstart	L 6
Yellow-rumped Warbler	871	Common Yellowthroat	9
Black-throated Green Warbler	L 9	<i>unspecified warblers</i>	1 (12)

**TOWHEES – HOUSE SPARROWS**

Eastern Towhee	36	Savannah Sparrow	58
American Tree Sparrow	1 (12)	Fox Sparrow	5
Chipping Sparrow	343	Song Sparrow	822
Field Sparrow	94	Lincoln's Sparrow	L 7
Vesper Sparrow	3 (27)	Swamp Sparrow	98



White-throated Sparrow	1608	Common Grackle	15451
White-crowned Sparrow	625	Brown-headed Cowbird	3320
Dark-eyed Junco	1223	Purple Finch	34
<i>unspecified sparrows</i>	103 (10,17,18)	House Finch	769
Northern Cardinal	331	Pine Siskin	39 (13,28)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<b>L</b> 4 (14,20,24)	American Goldfinch	1015
Red-winged Blackbird	18176	Evening Grosbeak	2 (28)
Eastern Meadowlark	83	House Sparrow	1720
Rusty Blackbird	837	<i>unspecified birds</i>	8 (13)

**Summary Information** – Total Species Observed ..... **159**  
Total Individual Birds Observed ... **144,875**

**Comparisons** – The associated charts, available from the Editor or Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 64 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 1999 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES – Glossy Ibis (2). First record. (Unspecified Ibis (2) were recorded in 1990)  
Lesser Black-backed Gull (1). Second record for count. (First was last year)  
Philadelphia Vireo (1). First record in a decade.

**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: **Lynne Landon**, Jim Wojewodzki, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: Whitney M. Mallam, **Susan M. O'Donnell**, Thomas M. O'Donnell
3. Wilson, NY: Ken Cohen, **Willie D'Anna**, Jerry Farrell, Susan Farrell, Julie Horne, William Horne, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: Deborah Hovland, **Bill Watson**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Dick Christensen, Peggy Christensen, Morgan Jones, **Brendan Klick**, Bob Lipp, Marion Smith
6. Port Maitland, ON: Bob Andrie, Jerry Chapple, Nina Chapple, **Joe Thill**
7. Lowbanks, ON: Bobby Byron, Richard Byron, **Mike Hamilton**, Jack Mansfield
8. Fort Erie, ON: **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Mary Benham, Paul Benham, Scott Meier, Karen Michel, **Gerry Rising**, Mark Schlacter
10. Akron, NY: Edward Crohn, **Donald Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte
11. Buffalo, NY: **Michael Davis**, Stan Watkins
12. Lancaster, NY: Alan Baczkiewicz, Ann Bauer, Marion Bee, Kurt Fox, Paul Fuhrman, Tom Harper, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Marlene Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Donna Wieand
13. Batavia, NY: Douglas Beattie, Elaine Dart, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Aron Kehlenbech, Sr., Aron Kehlenbech, Jr., Alice McKale, Dolores Seamans, **Gail Seamans**, Donald Thureau, Anne Vogt
14. Hamburg, NY: Ernie Baker, Ken Brandes, Erma Kern, Glenna Leous, **Barbara Walker**, Margaret Wooley, Audrey Zegharth
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**, Debbie Brown, Ed Ratajczak, Olga Rosche
16. Angola, NY: Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Bert Schweigert**
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Michael Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ronald Andrews, Lucille Bailey, Roy Bielewicz, Faye Clancy, Barbara Cronk, Lillian Cronk, **Alice Evans**, Lyle Hotchkiss, Dora Lilly, Joan MacEwan, Phillip Main, Mrs. Phillip Main, Roger Nicholson, Mrs. Roger Nicholson, Jean Perry, Michael Raybuck, Maxine Schembri, Elaine Smith, Lowell Smith, Max Smith, Ann Voss, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson, Mrs. Richard Wilson, Audrey Zilker
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Sylvia Clark, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Dale Loscher, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveau, Lucille Neveau, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Virginia Anderson, Mike Fugagli, Julie Heilman, Walt Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Carol Reynolds, Carol Roby, Kelly Suckow, Sue Suckow, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Chris Berry, Jim Berry, Mary Berry, Seth Berry, Mike Fugagli, Ranjit Laha, Carol Reynolds, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Mike Fugagli, Ranjit Laha, Steve Maggio, Carol Reynolds, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**



24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Jeff Reed
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Lou Bump, **Doris Burton**, Deborah Floyd, Frances C. Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann Scott, Morris Scott, Bruce Smalley
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Estella Cronauer, Audrey Dunham, George Dunham, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Claribel James, Helen Link, Lillian Simons
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Carol Behn, Warren Bouck, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, **Elizabeth Brooks**, Deb Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Paul Culley, Kate Cushing, Mark Cushing, Luke Donius, Phyllis Dubriel, Ann Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, Pete Finlay, Terry Finlay, Keegan Fleming, Walt Franklin, Shawn Graham, Matt Hotchkiss, Sandra Hotchkiss, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Elsie Kent, Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Barry Lash, Hannah Lash, Martha Lash, Rachel Lash, Cathy MacDonald, Ken McClure, Marian McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lenny Osgood, Ruth Osgood, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, **Vivian Pitzrick**, Mary Shields, Peter Shields, Cathy Sorochin, Terah Soule, Connor Stevens, Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Abbey Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Mary Lu Wells

Total Number of Observers: 231

**Note:** A complete report of the October 1999 Count can be found at the end of this issue. In addition, summaries of October counts for the decade (1990-1999) and for the period 1935-1999 are available from Michael Hamilton.

### **Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant Field Trip**

Twenty members and friends of the Buffalo Ornithological Society met on Sunday, the 24th of October at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant to see the waterfowl that nested nearby or have migrated to Genesee County to rest and feed at the lagoons. The sixteen species that were identified were: Canada Goose 610, Gadwall 9, American Wigeon 24, American Black Duck 35, Mallard 140, Northern Shoveler 300, Northern Pintail 50, Green-winged Teal 50, Ring-necked Duck 20, Lesser Scaup 49, Surf Scoter 2, White-winged Scoter 3, Bufflehead 37, Hooded Merganser 12, Common Merganser 50, and Ruddy Duck 671. We also saw 2 Pied-billed Grebe, 4 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Turkey Vulture, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, 10 American Coots, 12 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs, 4 Pectoral Sandpipers, 7 Dunlin, 3 Bonaparte's Gulls (first-year plumage), 11 Ring-billed Gulls, 3 Herring Gulls, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Northern Flicker, 6 American Crows, 1 Homed Lark, 1 American Pipit, 2 probable Song Sparrows, 4 Dark-eyed Juncos, and 3 Snow Buntings.

We were at the lagoons from 8:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and were grateful to be able to get out of the cold wind and warm up in the office/administration building. We felt that the trip was actually a training session for the rigors that we will feel when standing at Sir Adam Beck looking for gulls next month. After our lunch, most of the group went on to the Oak Orchard Swamp in the towns of Oakfield and Alabama to see what birds could be found there.

In the afternoon the new birds were Snow Geese, Cedar Waxwings, Rusty Blackbirds, and a lone swallow that most of our group thought might be a Tree Swallow, although we couldn't rule out Northern Rough-winged Swallow. The bird was flying quite high and we were looking into the sun and could not see it well enough to identify.

On my way home, on the Lockport Road, we came on to a huge flock of redwings, starlings and cowbirds. I estimated the number of Brown-headed Cowbirds to be in excess of one thousand. When they landed, standing wing to wing, they were almost a football field full of birds.

Gail Seamans, Field Trip Leader



## Field Trip to Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach

September 5th was a pleasant partly cloudy day. Although viewing conditions were excellent, with almost no wind, birds were very scarce and the twelve members of the field trip only had 44 species.

We saw seven species of warblers: Nashville, Yellow, Wilson's (3), Magnolia (4), Blackburnian, NORTHERN PARULA (2), and American Redstart. At Tifft Nature Preserve we also saw Great Blue Heron (2), Green Heron (3), Black-crowned Night-Heron, Blue-winged Teal (4), Wood Duck (2), many Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Flicker (2), and many friendly Black-capped Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatches.

At Times Beach a long and difficult walk along the break wall rewarded six members of the field trip with a much closer look at two Lesser Yellowlegs, about six Least Sandpipers, fifteen Semipalmated Sandpipers, five Semipalmated Plovers, a Short-billed Dowitcher, and a STILT SANDPIPER. At Times Beach we also added Herring Gull, Barn Swallow, Belted Kingfisher, and American Kestrel to our list. Because the number of birds was low, we had plenty of time to study and enjoy the few that we did see, and we all had a pleasant and congenial morning.

William Watson, Field Trip Leader

## ATLAS 2000

New York State's second breeding bird atlas project called ATLAS 2000 is about to begin in the spring of 2000 and continue for the next five years. Much remains to be done in the coming few months, such as hiring the State Coordinator who is to be officed in Albany, the printing of the Handbook for Workers, and the preparation and distribution of maps. However, some activity can take place at the present time in preparation for the 2000 breeding season which begins in January with the Great Horned Owl nesting activity. As the Region 1 Project Coordinator, in the next few months I shall be visiting the various bird clubs in the Region and inviting participation by everyone who is able and willing to devote their time to the project. If you have a favorite territory that you would like to work for the Atlas Project, now is the time to let me know. It is particularly important that individuals who worked on the project in the early 1980's cover the same blocks of land this time, if at all possible. In order to be successful and a useful comparison to the data in the first atlas, full coverage by as many observers as possible will be required.

Richard C. Rosche  
110 Maple Rd.  
East Aurora, NY 14052  
(716) 652-8409  
e-mail: drosche@juno.com

## Membership Update

Please welcome the following new member:

Thomas P. LeBlanc  
P.O. Box 254  
Salamanca, NY 14779  
716-945-9969  
LeBlancT@aol.com

## **New BOS Meetings Format!**

At the BOS meeting of October 27, 1999 it was agreed that, starting with the first meeting in January 2000 we will:

- 1) start with the program, followed by bird sighting reports, and conclude with business.
- 2) experiment with having a formal program at the first meeting of each month only and a more flexible structure for the second monthly meeting.

The purpose of this experiment is to see if we can both shorten the duration of meetings and provide more variety and opportunity in their content.

Mike Hamilton, President

## **BOS MEETINGS**

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-8040).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Jan. 2: Sunday. Hamburg-East Aurora Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Brendon Klick (839-1792).

Jan. 16: Sunday. Waterfowl Count of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. This is the target date, but any date between January 15 and 23, inclusive, is acceptable. Compiler: Bill Burch (773-3690).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: ChasHal@AOL.com



Buffalo Ornithological Society 64th Annual Fall Count, October 10, 1999

Section:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Totals	No of Sctns	
L O O N S - D U C K S																																
Common Loon																														8	2	
Pied-billed Grebe	1			2		4		70	1	1	15	3	1	16	6		7	14	6			47	1	1	1	2	3	5		5	204	20
Horned Grebe	1				3	30	1									3													4	42	6	
Red-necked Grebe					1																									1	1	
Double-crested Cormorant	9	72	13		12			61	186	71	3	1		5			16				523	29				1				1002	14	
Great Blue Heron	1	2	5	1	27	8		5	8	1	18	4	12	18	2	3	3	3	6	14	6	12	3	9			7	6	8	192	26	
Great Egret					15																				6				21	2		
Green Heron																			1	1							1		4	4	4	
Black-crowned Night-Heron		1									2																			3	2	
Glossy Ibis							2																							2	1	
Turkey Vulture			6	3	10	10		1	4		17		6	29	1	2	9	3	10	14	3		1	5		1	7	3	9	154	22	
Canada Goose	106	807	460		4690	146		437	615	81	808	114	1097	3926	520	495	396	410	198	990	535	56	10	670	15	2	573	41	877	19075	27	
Mute Swan (adults)			4																											4	1	
Tundra Swan																														1	1	
Wood Duck			33		25	5				12	15	7	27	189		39	5	1	20	3	20		2	25	22	5	3	1	2	461	21	
Gadwall					2					1	2										4	2								11	5	
American Wigeon		6	7		604	8			2	8	33			8	9			6			8	14					16			729	13	
American Black Duck		6	2		18				4	2		2	2	27		23		7	11		2									106	12	
Mallard	104	713	209	4	1046	9		199	260	187	214	86	243	943	374	17	8	29	76	28	219	239	5	36	19	4	103	8	36	5418	28	
Blue-winged Teal					2			1			19	1				6			3			2		12	2					48	9	
Northern Shoveler					18			2			8			127								4								159	5	
Northern Pintail			2		20			1						60																83	4	
Green-winged Teal		7	20		57			2					8	17		19			24		1	26		120					301	11		
unspecified teal											10																			10	1	
Redhead					2			27			8	8									6									51	5	
Ring-necked Duck			4					8			3			2					3		2									22	6	
Greater Scaup		50													1															51	2	
Lesser Scaup		6																				22								233	5	
White-winged Scoter		1	83		1			185	10																					97	4	
Oldsquaw							1	12																						1	1	
Common Goldeneye																														5	1	
Hooded Merganser			1		3									5																8	3	
Common Merganser		3						13					1	7											6	7				37	6	
Red-breasted Merganser	11							1		1											8									24	5	
Ruddy Duck		17			16			2						199				13				4								251	6	
unspecified waterfowl				100	13								5																	118	3	
O S P R E Y S - C O O T S																																
Osprey									1																						1	1
Bald Eagle						1					1								1							2				6	5	
Northern Harrier					2	13			2		2			2		1	1		1	6	2			4						41	13	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1	3		1			1			1	2	1	2				3	2	4	2	1	1	2	2					33	19	
Cooper's Hawk	1											1	2	1	1				1	3				1	1					14	11	
unspecified accipiters													1	2																3	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk																				1				1						5	4	
Broad-winged Hawk																														2	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	7	6	11	4	8	16		2	3	2	6	3	8	18	4	3	9	3	3	14	15	1	1	7	2	2	5	1	7	171	28	
Rough-legged Hawk															1															1	1	
unspecified buteos														1																1	1	
American Kestrel	2	5	7	3	3	28		2	3	1			4	6	1	1	1	1	4	7	2			3			6		2	91	20	
Merlin				1		1															1									3	3	
unspecified falcons											1																			1	1	
Ring-necked Pheasant											1																					



**Buffalo Ornithological Society 64th Annual Fall Count, October 10, 1999**

Section:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Totals	No of Sectns	
Least Sandpiper							6																2						8	2	
Pectoral Sandpiper		3	1				7				10	9	5								3		3						41	8	
Dunlin												5	5																5	1	
Common Snipe	1				3			3				5	9							4	1		1	23					46	8	
American Woodcock																											1		5	2	
Bonaparte's Gull	32	43	87			9	25	225																					421	6	
Ring-billed Gull	712	1028	1292	505	672	430	567	1500	120	17	109	71	42	194	6	112		45		771	320	135	63	15	1	2	68	66	8863	26	
Herring Gull	16	70	63	10	3	27	39	150	8			1				38			76	8					1	11		90	611	16	
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1																											1	1	
Great Black-backed Gull	4	19	13	2	6	13	15	12	2						28				67										181	11	
Common Tern			3					9	25																				37	3	
Forster's Tern								1																					1	1	
D O V E S - S W A L L O W S																															
Rock Dove	4	146	91	16	49	5	45	130	25	35	104	132	153	88	62	114	207	222	148	92	78						33	188	2612	27	
Mourning Dove	124	248	325	114	282	182	56	225	12	96	18	128	246	142	179	102	137	142	114	574	18	19	61	2	33	66	27	179	3851	28	
Eastern Screech-Owl			3										3																6	2	
Great Horned Owl			15		1							2	1					1								1			21	6	
Barred Owl																													1	1	
Short-eared Owl			1																										1	1	
Chimney Swift		5							25		59																		89	3	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird															1														1	1	
Belted Kingfisher	1	4	2		7			2	2	2		5	1	1	1		3	4	2	2	3	2	4	3		8	2	61	21		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	1	11	1		2				2		9	13	2	3	1	1	6	1		1		1	1					59	16	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1	2		1			1			1						1	2		1								10	8	
Downy Woodpecker	13	8	12	3	6		5	6	3	9	17	28	20	24	9	10	6	4	40	21	4		7	5	10	2	28	300	25		
Hairy Woodpecker	1		3		3							8	4	3	3				7	1	3		1		2	5	8	52	14		
Northern Flicker	6	5	22	4	4	1		3	3	5	4	12	12	4	5	2	5	5	4	25	1	1	14	2	2	14	165	25			
Pileated Woodpecker																2		1	1		1		1		1			9	8		
Eastern Wood-Pewee					1																								1	1	
Eastern Phoebe	1	1	1	2	2	4	3		1	3	2	6	8	3	5	2		4	2	9	3	1	2	2	1	1	4	73	25		
unspecified empidonax sp																													1	1	
Blue-headed Vireo	1		1						1			4					1			1					1				13	7	
Philadelphia Vireo																															
Red-eyed Vireo			1									1																	1	1	
Blue Jay	65	41	113	30	77	32	26	28	15	28	14	132	105	36	21	64	38	35	235	91	36	7	60	6	9	83	20	173	1620	28	
American Crow	55	102	113	42	149	40	57	109	23	83	68	183	450	97	51	155	78	182	349	437	69	38	66	35	28	160	162	398	3779	28	
Common Raven																	3		1					1	1	2	19	27	6		
Horned Lark	2		5		9	5						4	9																34	6	
Tree Swallow		125							81																				206	2	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		25														13													38	2	
T I T S - W A X W I N G S																															
Black-capped Chickadee	41	31	95	54	42	14	18	15	28	26	87	159	118	77	22	56	58	81	174	151	25	14	27	18	6	64	24	305	1830	28	
Tufted Titmouse		1	3					6		3	2	10	4	12	2	3		2	13	5				2	1			6	75	16	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	5	10	1	1						10	5	8	14	4		2	5	13	7			3			6	4	36	136	18	
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	5	10	3	4	6		2	4	1	7	22	28	30	7	4	4	5	57	16	2	1	6		2	14	8	43	299	26	
Brown Creeper		1	1	2	2		1	5	1	1	1	7	2	1			2	1		5								5	37	15	
Carolina Wren	1			1				1	3		1	1		2						2				1					13	9	
House Wren				1								1																	2	2	
Winter Wren	1		3										3				1		2												
Golden-crowned Kinglet	34	18	59	25	4	5	3	85	29	5	16	63	18	8	1	2	12	10	7	48				4				109	572	23	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	5	66	8	1	19		12	12	3	13	115	26	4	4	4	9	7		25	2		8	2	3		16	376	23		
unspecified kinglets										6		4																	10	2	
Eastern Bluebird	18		21	22	30	22		6				14	14	22	2	10	16	21	21	32		2				6	2	32	313	19	
Gray-cheeked Thrush												1								1									2	2	
Hermit Thrush			9	6						1		4	1							1	1		1						25	9	
Wood Thrush														1															2	2	
American Robin	98	378	139	61	212	117	42	250	71	88	44	430	442	101	34	96	26	46	267	250	22	3	85	13	3	119	7	316	3760	28	
Gray Catbird	3		5		1			2	3	1	3	10	2	2		1		4	1	9	1		1	1			4	54	18		
Northern Mockingbird	6	10	7					1	2											1									27	6	
European Starling	917	6363	1160	997	1915	1197	893	2300	78	4200	54	1176	1950	217	1082	274	1497	942	524	2206	64	48	925	76	38	920	166	1183	33362	28	
American Pipit		3	98	3	1							3	18			12			21							40			199	9	
Cedar Waxwing	1	21	18	46	30	38		28	3	4		90	107	9	5	10	39	42	115	18	5	205		206	5	40	105	1190	24		
W A R B L E R S																															
Orange-crowned Warbler													4																4	1	
Nashville Warbler										2		1					1												4	3	
Chestnut-sided Warbler																													1	1	
Magnolia Warbler			1									1																4	6	3	



Buffalo Ornithological Society 64th Annual Fall Count, October 10, 1999

Section:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Totals	No of Sctns	
Cape May Warbler					1																									1	1	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				1					1				1																	6	5	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		67	40	29	25	22	22	57	12	54	46	21	87	37	15	6	11	58	44	30	13	20		61	34		26		56	871	24	
Black-throated Green Warbler		1											1	6										1						9	4	
Pine Warbler		2						1																						3	2	
Palm Warbler		1		1	3				2								1		1		1				1		2			13	9	
Bay-breasted Warbler																														1	1	
Blackpoll Warbler													2			1					1				1					6	5	
Black-and-white Warbler																						1				1				1	1	
American Redstart									1			1			1					2										6	5	
Common Yellowthroat				1	1								1					1						1			1			9	7	
unspecified warblers													1																	1	1	
T O W H E E S - H O U S E S P A R R O W S																																
Eastern Towhee				2					1			1	3	5	1		3	1	3							1		2		10	36	13
American Tree Sparrow													1																	1	1	
Chipping Sparrow		22	1	6		18	2					5	15	39	4		2	9	29	9	30	3			4	1	3	16	5	120	343	21
Field Sparrow				1	1			2	10	2			1	7		2	1	7	12		22			10	4	2	2	7		1	94	18
Vesper Sparrow																												3		3	1	
Savannah Sparrow			1	1		3	20		5				3	1	3	2	11				5				2		1			58	13	
Fox Sparrow				2			1						1														1			5	4	
Song Sparrow		18	13	59	18	10	13	3	34	9	18	17	89	61	16	23	58	35	12	41	78	5		1	27	48	3	35	11	67	822	28
Lincoln's Sparrow				3	1								1											2						7	4	
Swamp Sparrow			1	8							2		17						6		14			6	9	17		3		14	98	12
White-throated Sparrow		29	30	384	46	5	23	26	120	31	64	49	207	132	12	8	67	11	15	7	133	11			24	63		32	1	78	1608	26
White-crowned Sparrow		21	16	103	26	85	33		55	1	26	8	8	29	13	11	33	3	1	6	84	4			12	4		20	10	21	625	24
Dark-eyed Junco		11	22	40	15	5	9	2	2	4	12	55	42	57	3	5	30	11	24	177	117	20		8	5	18	129	34	366	1223	27	
unspecified sparrows											10								87	6										103	3	
Northern Cardinal		25	5	29	6	11	2		18	14	5	7	55	23	21	5	11	1	2	22	26	4			8	1	1	7		22	331	25
Rose-breasted Grosbeak															1						2					1				4	3	
Red-winged Blackbird		133	274	60	57	811	683	149	700	18	10746	2	112	1275	45	2	277	493	370	172	319	200	67	559	513		132	7		18176	26	
Eastern Meadowlark				1	4	10	14						3	7	4	9	11	2	13								5			83	12	
Rusty Blackbird			14	4	2	247					151		100	34				6		2				5	260	12				837	12	
Common Grackle		6	333	253	3	12657	250			200	7		188	1006	40	120	2	2	3	160	47			3	155		3	1	12	15451	22	
Brown-headed Cowbird		50	5		5	1	950		1800		150			201		2	4	2		21	106			12			1		10	3320	16	
Purple Finch													2	2				3							1	2		3		21	34	7
House Finch		43	54	44	89	38	11	17	29		13	1	77	14	56	11	12	2	6	51	106			17	5		28	15	30	769	24	
Pine Siskin														8																31	39	2
American Goldfinch		8	51	41	40	29	7		5	4	2	5	40	58	23	27	7	22	12	186	64	7		15	6	3	116	26	211	1015	26	
Evening Grosbeak																														2	1	
House Sparrow		70	137	226	36	42	68	64	70	24	8	31	71	103	68	28	60	31	38	85	145	48		14	97	2	42	16	96	1720	27	
unspecified birds														8																8	1	
TOTAL SPECIES		57	67	85	57	72	57	51	61	50	58	47	80	86	56	52	55	57	62	56	74	54		30	66	54	28	65	34	69	159	
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS		2953	11477	6148	2470	24177	4600	3297	9228	1230	17271	1079	5484	12637	2361	2417	2215	3470	2808	4136	7891	2242	423	3867	1383	794	3028	250	5539	144875		
Number of observers / section		3	3	7	2	8	4	4	1	6	4	2	11	11	8	4	3	1	4	27	13	10	8	6	1	1	8	8	63	231		



**Buffalo Ornithological Society...ANNUAL DUES NOTICE (10/13/99-10/11/00)**

**Membership levels:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00 ARTIC TERN (Corresponding/Subscribing) The long distance migrants.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (Active/Associate-Individual) The ever  
present worker and backbone of the society.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 AMERICAN CROW (Active/Associate-Family) You never see just one.

**For those who want to give more:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Always scratching for a little more.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75.00 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH One that has put something aside for  
the future.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 WILD TURKEY A large nest of eggs to give from.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 GREAT HORNED OWL Able to cough up a little more.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 BAL EAGLE Our national symbol, the top of the raptor world.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO AXTELL/McVEY/WENDLING FUND... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are payable in U.S. Funds to BOS. Please respond by December 15, 1999 to:**

Lynne Landon, Treasurer  
139 Jackson St.  
Youngstown, NY 14174

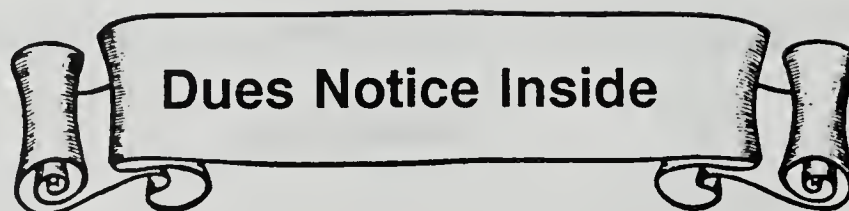
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**THANK YOU**

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
Buffalo, NY 14211

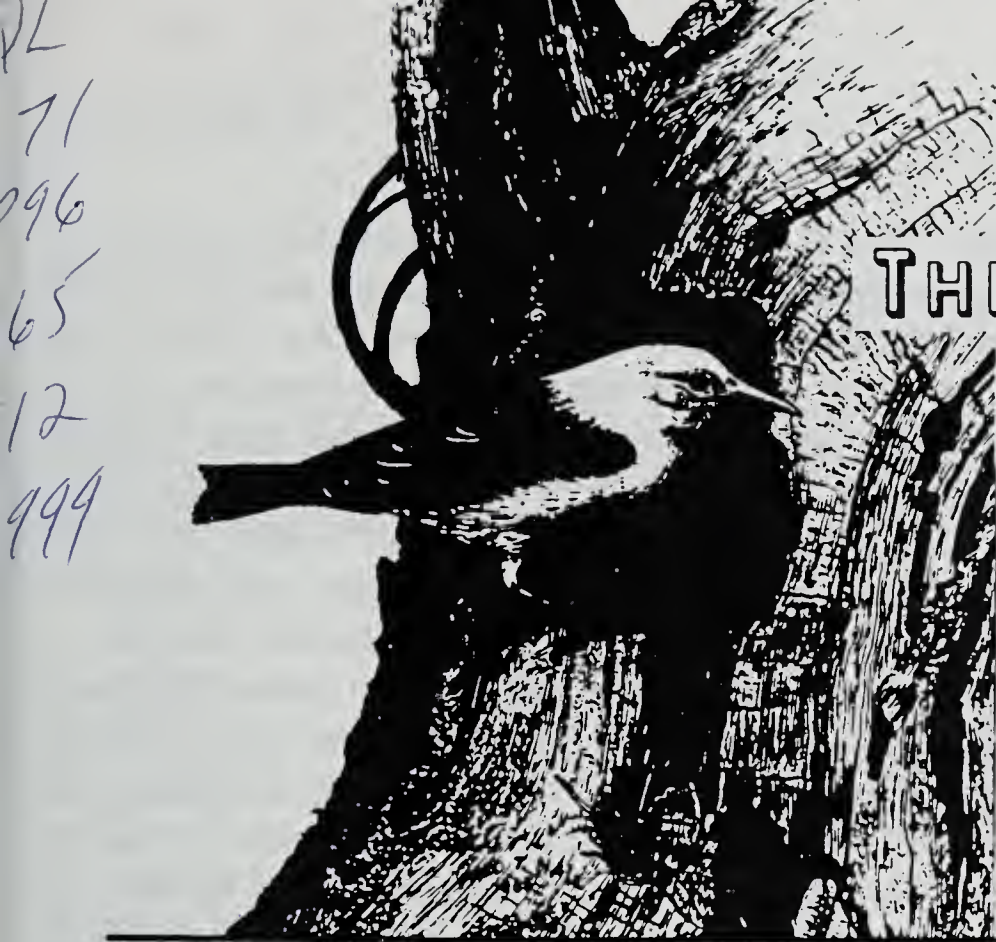
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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 65

December, 1999

Number 12

**THE MONTH: November, 1999**

After a stormy beginning, November settled down into being a generally pleasant month across the Niagara Frontier. The average temperature of 43.9°F. was over three degrees above normal and it made this the eighth warmest November of the century. There were no temperature records set but the mercury came within a degree of matching them on the 22nd and 23rd. The coldest day was November 30 when the mercury remained below freezing all day. Precipitation totalled just over three inches at Buffalo which was slightly below normal. Over half of this amount fell during a deluge on November 2; the 1.65 inches established a new daily rainfall record for the date. This event was followed by an unusually long, dry period with rain falling on only two of the next twenty days. Snowfall was again sparse for the second consecutive November. Virtually none fell until November 30 which constituted the first spell of wintry weather. The monthly total was 0.9 inches, only the 13th time in the last 100 years that November has ended with less than an inch; the normal is about ten inches. November was brighter than usual with some sunshine on all but four days. The Lake Erie water temperature cooled to 46°F., two degrees above normal for late November.

The main weather event of the month was an intense low-pressure storm cell that developed in south-central Texas. It remained there for several days before moving straight northeast to the lower Great Lakes area during the evening of November 2. The barometric pressure fell to 29.01 inches at Buffalo, the lowest at any time since January 1992 and the lowest in November since 1913. A day-long rain produced intense downpours as the storm passed, especially over Buffalo and the Niagara River. Grand Island received over three inches of rain, while lighter amounts were reported from areas east and south of the city. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service Monthly Weather Summary for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet).

The VETERAN'S DAY wind storm of November 1998 will long be remembered for the unprecedented influx of Franklin's Gulls that it brought to the Northeast, including western New York. But the intense low pressure rain storm described above will also go down in ornithological history as one of the GREAT NOVEMBER STORMS for the sudden and dramatic influx of Cave Swallows it brought to northeastern North America. As soon as the storm passed on November 3 and 4, well birded migration sites such as Cape May, New Jersey and Point Pelee, Ontario were reporting up to 35 and 25 individuals, respectively. After they heard



about it, local birders began covering the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie and the Niagara River in B.O.S. territory, specifically searching for this species. No Cave Swallows were found, although any November swallow in our area is of some significance; such was the individual observed on November 13 at Golden Hill State Park by Mike Morgante and others. The bird was seen well enough to eliminate Cave Swallow but not well enough to eliminate Northern Rough-winged Swallow or immature Tree Swallow, but the odds were on the former. By the end of the month sites as close as Presque Isle, Pennsylvania; Port Dover and Turkey Point, Ontario; and Hamlin Beach State Park and Braddock Bay in the Rochester area all had reports of Cave Swallows. This phenomenal movement was detected elsewhere in Ontario, in far-off Quebec, and along the Atlantic Coast in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Long Island, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

Cave Swallows or not, November was an interesting month on the Niagara Frontier. Some noteworthy Red-throated Loon flights were reported from the south shore of Lake Ontario. The same can be said for Common Loon, Surf Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser. A very rare vagrant from the West was the Western Grebe that graced the Niagara River where it frequented both Ontario and New York State waters. A small-sized immature heron/egret that fed regularly in a vacant field in suburban Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario for about ten days in the early part of the month proved to be a good lesson in field identification for the numerous birders who traveled there to see it. All the experts agreed that it was a Snowy Egret, the first record of this wanderer from the south for October or November in B.O.S. territory.

Waterfowl were much in evidence throughout the region. Five species of geese were reported, including the rare but increasing Ross's Goose and the small-sized "Richardson's" race of the Canada Goose, as described in this column last month. There were few significant reports among the hawks which is usual for this part of the Northeast. However, it is surprising that not a single Golden Eagle was reported in as much as 1999 was a banner year for this species at most hawk-watch sites on the north shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario; one such site near the western end of Lake Erie reported over a hundred Golden Eagles for the season, as per the Internet. Rough-legged Hawks appeared in larger numbers than in most recent late fall seasons.

The gull show on the Niagara River started out rather poorly this year, most probably due to the very mild weather all month. Niagara River populations of even the common species were very low through month's end. Ten species were reported: Little, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, California, Herring, Thayer's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous, and Great Black-backed Gulls. The occurrence of the rare California Gull is getting to be an regular yearly event on the river. The immature Sabine's Gull at Dunkirk Harbor remained there through November 9.

Among the more northern owls, only two individual Snowy Owls were reported. The Saw-whet Owl irruption of autumn 1999 that began in late September continued in full force during November. Our local area produced few reports of this hard-to-find common northern owl, but banding station reports from elsewhere in the Northeast reported unprecedented numbers as noted on the Internet: 344 banded at Freeport, Maine by November 11; 597 banded by November 8 at Long Point, Ontario; 555 banded at three sites in Pennsylvania up to November 10; 367 banded in New Jersey; and 180 banded at three sites in the Lower Delmarva Peninsula by November 12.

Boreal passerines continued to move through the region. Northern Shrikes were more common than during the average November. The rare and irregular Bohemian Waxwing was again reported from the south shore of Lake Ontario, this month at Fort Niagara State Park. The White-winged Crossbill was reported for the first time this year as was the Common Redpoll. Some redpoll individuals were visiting feeders, which seemed to some observers to be rather unusual for so early in the winter season. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks occurred in small numbers, most often at feeders. Among the unexpecteds one must note the Surf Scoter that frequented Red House Lake in Allegany State Park and the Common Yellowthroat that found suitable habitat at Sinking Ponds in East Aurora at least through November 21.

Richard C. Rosche



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	13	249	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
"	13	102	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	20	35	Port Weller, Ont.	Murr, Bajurny
"	21	328	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
Common Loon	11	1	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	11	2	Hermitage	R&D Rosche
"	13	121	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
"	13	4	Chautauqua Lake	Rew, Horbett
Horned Grebe	21	1	Attica Reservoir	Fox
Red-necked Grebe	13	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
"	13	3	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	21;23	2;2	Olcott	Klick; Yoerg
* <u>Western Grebe</u>	27	1	Youngstown	Ford
D.-crested Cormorant	5	145	Buffalo	Watson
"	11	1	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	13	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	13	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	11	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna
Turkey Vulture	11L	1	Gainesville	R&D Rosche
<u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	13	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante, Fox, Watson
"	23	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Sowinski
Snow Goose	8;13	6;8	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Morgante
"	11;21	2;1	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche; Fox
"	14	5	Oakfield	Klick
"	22	1	Buffalo	Vallone
* <u>Ross's Goose</u>	11	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	T O'Donnell
Canada Goose	8,14	10750,13500	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
<u>B. c. hutchinsii</u>	13,21	32,10	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
<u>B. c. hutchinsii</u>	14	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg
Brant	14	35	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Mute Swan	11	2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Trumpeter Swan	8	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
(Banded, origin unknown)				
Tundra Swan	4;22	10;22	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson; Klick
"	11	12	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	13,19	19,59	Fort Erie, Ont.	Roy
"	25	17	South Dayton	Neveu
Wood Duck	5	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson
"	13	1	Sinking Ponds N.P.	Holmes
Blue-winged Teal	7L	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Northern Shoveler	8	106	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Sowinski
"	13;28	200;135	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Seamans
Canvasback	4	10	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	14	40	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Redhead	4	3	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Ring-necked Duck	11;21	550;500	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche; Fox
Greater Scaup	1;14	3000;7600	Niagara Falls	Roberson; Klick
Lesser Scaup	13	60	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Surf Scoter	7	7	Somerset	Klick, D'Anna
"	9	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg, Oomen
"	13	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
"	13	1	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc
"	21	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
White-winged Scoter	13	358	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
Black Scoter	4	6	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Andrle
"	7	4	Somerset	Klick, D'Anna
"	13	2	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
"	13	1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	14	1	Lowbanks, Ont.	Yoerg
Bufflehead	3	300	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Goldeneye	14	630	Niagara Falls	Klick
Hooded Merganser	8,14	112,127	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	11	40	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
"	17	125	Mayville	R&D Rosche
Red-br. Merganser	13	447	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
"	21	236	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	4	48	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	7,28	467,596	Batavia WWTP	Seaman
"	8,14	62,43	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	11;21	150;48	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche; Fox
"	13	700	Chautauqua Lake	Neveu
"	14	15	Oakfield	Klick
"	21	11	Warsaw	Fox
Bald Eagle	2;8	1;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell; Klick
"	20;21	1 ad.; 1 im.	Queenston, Ont.	Murr; Seamans



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Rough-legged Hawk	8,25	3,4	South Dayton	Neveu
"	9-30	13 reports	throughout WNY	many observers
<u>Merlin</u>	13	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rising
Peregrine Falcon	6;21	1; 1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter; D'Anna
"	19	1	Yates	Rew
American Coot	5	95	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson
"	8	209	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	11	250	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Killdeer	13	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	14	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Greater Yellowlegs	2	4	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	13L	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Sanderling	6L	14	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
Pectoral Sandpiper	6L	1	Yates	Seamans
Purple Sandpiper	13F;14	2;1	Port Weller, Ont.	Curry, Slessor; Roy
Dunlin	4	30	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg
"	6	190	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
"	7	5	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	9	1	Niagara Falls	Yoerg, Oomen
Common Snipe	21	2	Gouinlock's Pond	Fox
*Red Phalarope	24	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Chilton
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	13	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
<u>Jaeger species</u>	6	1	Shadigee	Yoerg
Little Gull	3;10	1;2	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	5	1	Lasalle Park, Bflo.	Watson
"	7	1	Lewiston	D'Anna, Klick
"	11	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Somerset	Morgante et al
"	13	3	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
Bonaparte's Gull	4,25	2270,480	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	7	5	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
* <u>California Gull</u>	7;11	1;1	Devil's Hole S.P.	D'Anna, Klick; D'Anna
"	9	1	Lewiston	Galas, Rising, Watson
"	18	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Bellerby
"	20,21,26,27	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna
"	21	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna
Iceland Gull	9F;11	1;2	Niagara Falls	Yoerg; D'Anna et al
"	11;28	2;4	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna et al; Morgante
Lesser Black-b. Gull	6;9;28	2;1;3	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna; Watson; Morgante
"	13;28	8;7	Niagara Falls	D'Anna; Morgante, Fox
Sabine's Gull	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Tern	4	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg
"	5	5	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Chilton, Yoerg
"	6	1	Port Maitland, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Tern	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Miles, Seamans
Forster's Tern	6L	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
*Snowy Owl	18F;20;21	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Roy; Murr; Vogt
"	21	1	Belmont	Pitzrick
Short-eared Owl	11	1	Shelby	S. O'Donnell
Red-headed Wdpkr.	5-15	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	29	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Galas
Northern Shrike	11-30	14 reports	throughout WNY	many observers
Common Raven	8	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Swallow species	13	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante et al
Carolina Wren	21	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	21	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5	1 banded	Alfred	Brooks
"	14L	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Hermit Thrush	6	1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	21	9	Fort Niagara S.P.	Sowinski, D'Anna, Klick
"	22	6	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
"	23	7	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg
"	29	4	Fort Niagara S.P.	Galas
Yellow-r. Warbler	22	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Common Yellowthroat	13,21	1	Sinking Ponds N.P.	Holmes
Chipping Sparrow	16	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Field Sparrow	13	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	S&T O'Donnell
Fox Sparrow	6	1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	6	5	Yates	Seamans
"	8	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	8	1	Perrysburg	Neveu
"	13	1	Sinking Ponds N.P.	Holmes
Swamp Sparrow	20	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Lapland Longspur	28	5	Yates	Baczkiwicz
Snow Bunting	11;21	150;100	Fort Niagara S.P.	Clemesha; Brock(BOS)
"	12	200	Olcott	Chilton
"	13	250	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox
"	19	250	Yates	Rew, Horbett
Red-w. Blackbird	4	25	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	11	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	14	1	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick
Eastern Meadowlark	26	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
Rusty Blackbird	11	5	Gainesville	R&D Rosche
"	19	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rew, Horbett
Common Grackle	10	45	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Brown-headed Cowbird	21	4	Pendleton	Klick
Red Crossbill	6;13	2;2	Golden Hill S.P.	Seamans; Fox
"	13	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red Crossbill	23	1	Olcott	Yoerg
*White-w. Crossbill	13;19	1;4	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna; Galas, Rising
*Common Redpoll	9F,16	1	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
"	11	13	Newfane	S&T O'Donnell
"	13	200	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	21	60	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	21	22	Wilson	Klick
"	21	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Pine Siskin	1	4	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	2-24	6	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
"	3	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	6;19	5;6	Somerset	Yoerg; Chilton
"	6	10	Rock Point P.P.	Potter
"	11	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	18	2	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Morgante, Fox
Evening Grosbeak	1-30	25	Amity	Pitzrick
"	6,12,13	3,9,27	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
"	6,25	2,11	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	6	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	4	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	13;19	2;5	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante; Galas, Rising
"	19	1	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
-----				
Thayer's Gull	29	2	Lewiston	Klick
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Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded .....	270
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue (including October Count).....	7
Total for year .....	277

**Statisticians' Note**

If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision.

**Golden Eagle Flight At Hawk Cliff, Ontario  
Nov. 6-7, 1999**

The steady northwest winds of early November often bring a good Golden Eagle flight to the north shore of Lake Erie, so Fran Rew, Bob Andrle and Bill Burch went to Hawk Cliff for the November 6-7 weekend. Hawk Cliff is 136 miles west of Ft. Erie, Ontario, a 2.7 hour drive.

We spoke to Ray Riley at Hawk Cliff. He said that on Monday, November 1, they saw 25 Golden Eagles, on Tuesday 10, and on Wednesday 20 plus 6 Bald Eagles. I believe that these birds and those we saw were all immatures.

Saturday, November 6, was a mild day with mixed sun and clouds and a northwest wind of 7-12 mph. About 150 raptors were seen. Andrie counted 11 or more Golden Eagles and 2 Bald Eagles. A surprise was a Short-eared Owl among the migrants. Also moving were bluebirds, pipits and waxwings. A local Pileated Woodpecker and a Ruffed Grouse added interest.

The big event Saturday was the Golden Eagle tricked by a pigeon decoy and trapped by the banders. They displayed it to a group of 30 birders at the waterworks plant (on Hwy. 24, one-half mile east of Hwy. 22) at about 2:00 pm. Fran Rew's photos of it were some of the best taken.

Sunday had northwest winds of 12-20 mph and was sunny. The raptor tally from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. was as follows: Golden Eagle 10, Bald Eagle 5, Sharp-shinned Hawk 18, Cooper's Hawk 11, Rough-legged Hawk 15, Northern Harrier 9, Red-tailed Hawk 200, Red-shouldered Hawk 13, Turkey Vulture 5.

A treat was a flock of 17 Sandhill Cranes calling to each other as they followed the shoreline westward. During the morning a White-eyed Vireo foraged in the nearby bushes for half an hour; also counted were 12 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Friends arriving in the morning were Jim and Karen Landau and Mike Noville. It was a weekend of good birding.

Bill Burch

### **BOS/GOS Niagara River Field Trip**

On the 21st of November, thirty-four birders joined the annual BOS/GOS Niagara River field trip starting at the Coast Guard Station at Fort Niagara. In spite of hazy conditions in the whole area, the temperature at starting time was near 40°F. There was no precipitation and the temperature rose to over 50°F by afternoon. Unfortunately, bad weather, not good usually brings the large number of birds to the river that one would expect on this trip. Seldom have the numbers of gulls, ducks and other water birds been so low on the lower river. Birds seen were two Common Loons, a Red-throated Loon, four Oldsquaws, a flock of more than one hundred Snow Buntings and one Horned Grebe. Perhaps the best sighting in this area occurred along the road entering the parking lot where more than a hundred Cedar Waxwings were congregated. Within the flock were at least three Bohemian Waxwings which all members of the group observed. At the Lewiston dock, three Northern Mockingbirds made their annual appearance across from the parking lot. In the river, the scene was one of desolation with only a few flying gulls and two small rafts of Bonaparte's Gulls.

After crossing the river into Canada and proceeding directly to the Adam Beck overlook, things improved a little. Although the number of gulls at this important viewing spot was still very low, birders there had spotted, on the concrete structures housing the transformers of the Robert Moses power plant, an adult Iceland Gull and a California Gull. Because the California Gull was lying down most of the time, it was hard to identify but patience was rewarded finally with the bird's standing stretch and a good view of most of the important identifying features. Also, an adult Thayer's Gull was observed flying over and sitting on the water.

After a short but unproductive stop at the Whirlpool, the group reconvened at the parking lot near the control structure above the upper rapids. Large rafts of ducks containing Canvasback, Redhead, Scaup, Merganser, and Goldeneye were seen from this viewing area. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was identified in the water. A second Lesser Black-backed Gull was found on the breakwall just downstream of the control structure. Again the number of gulls of all species was extremely low for this area. From the Engineerium overlook, a third Lesser Black-backed Gull and a Hooded Merganser were found among a very sparse population of gulls and ducks.

As is the usual circumstance on this trip, parking problems in the near-falls area, this year exacerbated by construction work, brought about the end of the organized group birding and everyone went their own way.

Robert Brock



### **New BOS Meetings Format!**

At the BOS meeting of October 27, 1999 it was agreed that, starting with the first meeting in January 2000 we will:

- 1) start with the program, followed by bird sighting reports, and conclude with business.
- 2) experiment with having a formal program at the first meeting of each month only and a more flexible structure for the second monthly meeting.

The purpose of this experiment is to see if we can both shorten the duration of meetings and provide more variety and opportunity in their content.

Mike Hamilton, President

### **BOS MEETINGS**

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-8040).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

February 20: Sunday. Canadian Owl Trip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leaders: Blayne Farnhan and Terry Yonker (745-9129). Call Terry if you wish to meet on the Canadian side.

March 19: Sunday. One-half day trip. Canada Lake Ontario shoreline to search for King Eiders, waterfowl, and early migrants. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston. Take the 190 to Exit 25A (Lewiston, Route 265 North), left at stop sign (north), through traffic light to St. Mary's Hospital South Entrance. Meet at fence on south side of hospital parking lot. Leader: Mike Morgante (683-4819).

March 25: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain of eastern Niagara County and western Orleans county. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Route 78 at the Top's Market, a block north of the Route 104 intersection. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).

April 2: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, on the south side of Main Street, 0.1 mile east of Transit Road. Leader: Morgan Jones (433-5687).

April 9: Sunday. BOS April Bird Count.

April 30: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, 0.1 mile east of Main & Transit. We will join Rochester GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay State Park picnic shelter. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS and Mike Zebehazy (662-6987).

For further information contact the Field Trip Chair, **Susan O'Donnell** (284-5569).

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

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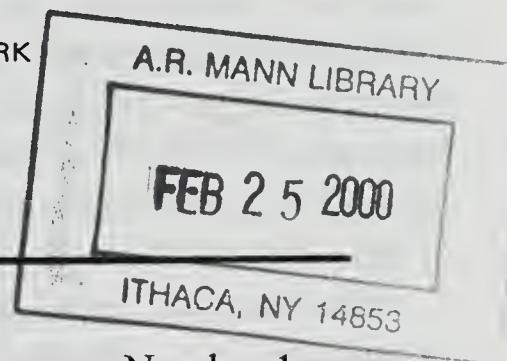
# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK



Volume 66

January, 2000

Number 1

## THE MONTH: December, 1999

Continuing the trend of the past two years, December was mild and dry except for a week of wintry weather over the Christmas holidays. The first three weeks were exceedingly mild and then a sharp turn to colder weather brought the typical lake effect snows from December 21 through 28. The last three days were mild again. The average temperature of 32°F. was about three degrees above normal, making this the 18th month of the past 24 with warmer than normal temperatures. The first 20 days averaged 7°F. above the norm, whereas the period December 21-28 was 6°F. below normal. Precipitation totalled just under two inches, about 60% of normal. Snowfall measured 12.7 inches which was about half the usual for December. By month's end the seasonal snowfall total was 20 inches below normal. Perhaps the major weather event of the month was the seiche that occurred on December 14 when strong and sustained easterly winds moved large amounts of Lake Erie water from east to west in the basin. At its peak Lake Erie water levels in the Buffalo region were two feet below normal and the lowest since the drought-stricken 1930's.

The National Weather Service characterized the final year of the millennium as a mild and dry one. It was the 12th warmest of the last 100 years and the second driest in the past 28 years. Of the 12 warmest years of the 20th century, four of them were in the 1990's, with 1998 being the warmest ever. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, N.Y. as posted on the Internet) For the second consecutive winter Tundra Swans remained in the region in unusually high numbers. The B.O.S. Christmas Count on December 19 tallied a record high of 135 individuals in the Niagara River region. Many of these individuals apparently did not remain, however, with the advent of the wintry December 21-28 period. Over a hundred were noted flying over Jamestown on December 28 according to Internet reports. Some dabbling ducks were reported in unusually large numbers. The American Black Duck and Mallard counts at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge were believed to be record high counts for that area. However, official counts made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel at the refuge were not available for comparison at the time of this writing. The large, late counts of Northern Shovelers are particularly interesting to this writer in as much as he witnessed a definite trend toward lateness among sewage lagoon-feeding individuals in certain places in the North Platte River Valley in Nebraska. The super abundance of floating algae that the birds strain



from the surface of the water apparently keeps them in place right up to the day before total freeze-up. When this occurs, regardless of date, there are no more Northern Shovelers to be seen. The typical Niagara River ducks that often number in the thousands at this time of the year - Canvasback, Redhead, and scaup - were very scarce all month.

Two wintering Merlins returned for the second consecutive year to the SUNYAB Campus at Main and Bailey Avenues in Buffalo, where they roost in trees adjacent to Hayes Hall. A Peregrine Falcon continued to reside in the Niagara Falls region. There are not many Decembers when three species of shorebirds are reported in the B.O.S. region. This year's Killdeer and Dunlin were joined by two Purple Sandpipers that made a brief appearance on the rocks in the rapids above Niagara Falls. The gull show on the Niagara River continued to be average to below average. The long spell of mild weather probably accounted for the continued delay in large numbers of gulls arriving on the river. A veteran Niagara River observer, Gordon Bellerby, reported a major influx of large-sized gulls on December 12, and the arrival of more normal numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls on December 21-22. The latter did not remain, however. No new species were added to the November gull list during December. Up to two California Gulls frequented the lower river at the Adam Beck power plant for most of the month.

Northern owls were scarce. Perhaps many of them ventured farther south this winter than usual. The Internet reported that Florida experienced its first documented Snowy Owl in history. Northern Saw-whet Owls were characterized as being "all over" the Carolinas and northern Georgia. The urbanized American Crow populations in the City of Buffalo reached the 500 mark, as noted by the Thills in a late afternoon roost in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Fifty years ago a crow within the city limits was a rarity! The probable Northern Rough-winged Swallow noted in the November records was an exciting find for that month, but December outdid that record. Unfortunately no verifying details were submitted for a possible Northern Rough-winged Swallow that was identified in flight over Lake Erie in the Town of Sheridan, Chautauqua County on December 12. Will there be a January swallow?

Small passerines were represented by late-lingering Eastern Bluebirds, two Gray Catbirds, a Hermit Thrush, two Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Common Yellowthroat, and single Chipping and Swamp Sparrows. There was a good showing of boreal passerine species, including the Northern Shrike, the rare Bohemian Waxwing (third consecutive month), and some of the winter finches. By month's end Common Redpolls were invading feeding stations where they were feeding upon black oil sunflower seeds, milo and millet seeds, as well as their favorite niger seeds.

Richard C. Rosche

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	7	4	Olcott	Chilton
"	12	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
"	27	3	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Common Loon	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Pied-billed Grebe	11	12	Mayville	Neveu
"	12	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson
Horned Grebe	5	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Andrle
"	8	8	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson et al
"	18-23	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
*Eared Grebe	31	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	DiTommaso, Skelly
D.-crested Cormorant	5	1	Strawberry Island	Watson
Mute Swan	26	2	Wilson	S&T O'Donnell
Tundra Swan	2;13,17	75;92,92	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton; Hess
"	12;21	24;29	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick; Watson
"	26	15	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna
"	30	12	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby
Gadwall	11	84	Mayville	Neveu
American Black Duck	2	45	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
"	12	<u>1600</u>	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	25	73	Beaver Is. S.P.	Thills
Mallard	2	500	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
"	12	<u>9100</u>	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Northern Shoveler	12	165	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	<u>21L</u>	114	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	2	2	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
"	27	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Green-winged Teal	2	4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton
Canvasback	11	10	Mayville	Neveu
Redhead	26	185	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	12	2	Somerset	Klick
"	26	2	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna
Oldsquaw	4	60	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Morgante
"	12	30	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson
Hooded Merganser	11	75	Mayville	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	11	10	Mayville	Neveu
"	21	44	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	23	9	Silver Creek	Neveu
Bald Eagle	18	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	22	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	23	1	Lewiston	S. O'Donnell
Rough-legged Hawk	5;12	2;3	Fort Niagara S.P.	Morgante, Fox; Klick
"	8	1	Cambria	S&T O'Donnell
"	12,20	1	Wales	Bee
"	14,24	6,8	South Dayton	Neveu

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Rough-legged Hawk	25	1	Amherst	Chilton
"	27	1	Clarence	Morgante
Merlin	<u>15,16,21</u>	1,2,2	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	<u>18</u>	1	Buffalo	Klick
Peregrine Falcon	<u>4,5,11</u>	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
American Coot	11	1000	Mayville	Neveu
"	12;26	64;64	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson; D'Anna
"	21	16	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
Killdeer	26	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna
Purple Sandpiper	2	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg, Chilton
Dunlin	18	2	Rock Point P.P.	Hamann, Lewington
<u>Jaeger species</u>	26	1	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna
Little Gull	23;26	1;1	Lewiston	S. O'Donnell; Klick
"	26	2	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	D'Anna
"	26;30	1;1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	26	2	Whirlpool	Klick
Bonaparte's Gull	21,23	15000,11700	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	26	4100	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
<u>California Gull</u>	4,11,12	1 ad.	R.Moses Power Plant	D'Anna
"	26	2	Devil's Hole S.P.	D'Anna; Klick
Lesser Black-b. Gull	11;26	5;6	Niagara Falls	Morgante, Fox; Klick
Glaucous Gull	4;30	1;1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	18	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Murr
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
Snowy Owl	4;6	1	Buffalo	Morgante; Klick
Long-eared Owl	27	1	Porter	Morgante
Short-eared Owl	24,25	1	Wales	Bee
"	27	1,1	Porter	Morgante; D'Anna, Potter
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Potter
Red-headed Wdpkr.	14	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Galas, Rising
Northern Shrike	4;27	2;1	Porter	S&T O'Donnell; Potter
"	8,30	1,2	Amherst	Chilton
"	11	1	Chautauqua	Neveu
"	12,24	1,1	Niagara Falls	S. O'Donnell
American Crow	22	267	Buffalo	Galas
"	31	500	Forest Lawn Cemetery	K&J Thill
Tufted Titmouse	13-31	4	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Carolina Wren	10	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	12	2	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Eastern Bluebird	4,11	13,6	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
"	8	3	Fort Niagara S.P.	Galas et al
"	9,23	4,1	Como Park	Morgante
"	12	2	Somerset	Klick
"	25	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Hermit Thrush	27	1	Porter	Potter, DiTommaso
Gray Catbird	1-3	1	Snyder	Klick
"	29	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Northern Mockingbird	15	1	Amherst	Chilton
Bohemian Waxwing	8	3	Somerset	Galas, Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	6	2	Times Beach, Bflo.	Klick, Sowinski
Common Yellowthroat	6L	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Amer. Tree Sparrow	27	150	Bond Lake Park	Morgante
Chipping Sparrow	7-18	1	Warsaw	Kunze
Swamp Sparrow	12	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Snow Bunting	6	25	Buffalo	Klick, Sowinski
Eastern Meadowlark	24	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Brown-headed Cowbird	19	25	Kenmore	K&J Thill
"	28	3	Tonawanda(f)	Hess
White-w. Crossbill	11,13	2,6	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	12	1	Porter	Klick
Common Redpoll	4;12	25;18	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg; Klick
"	8	4	Golden Hill S.P.	Galas et al
"	9-31	50 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	11,12	19,2	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	12	8	Somerset	Klick
"	27	30	Bond Lake Park	Morgante
"	27	55	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	28-31	5	Buffalo	Yoerg
Pine Siskin	1	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	7,14	1	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
"	12	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	19	4	McCarty Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson
Evening Grosbeak	4,11	12,5	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	19	40	McCarty Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna et al

**ADDENDA--1999**

Red-throated Loon	7/12	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	K. Landau
Tricolored Heron	5/31	1	Tifft N.P.	Rachlin
Tundra Swan	12/11,15	111,108	Beaver Island S.P.	Burch
"	12/27	2	Ft. Erie Twp., Ont.	Burch
Tufted Duck	1/23	1	Ft. Erie, Ont.	Roy
Greater Scaup	1/17	30000	Ft. Erie, Ont.	Klick
Oldsquaw	8/9	2	Grabell Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
Bald Eagle	10/13	1	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby
Peregrine Falcon	12/30	1	Buffalo (Statler)	Burch

E. Bluebird	10/20	5	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
*Conn. Warbler (banded)	9/3	1	Alfred	Brooks

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded from Jan 1, 1999 to Nov. 30, 1999.....	277
Additional species, subspecies & hybrids recorded from Dec. 1, 1999 to Dec. 31, 1999.....	2
Total for year (including addenda).....	279

Thayer's Gull	6	1	Goat Island	Klick
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Statisticians' Note

If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for the decision.

Report of the 71st B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count  
Compiler: William Bogacki

The 71st B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count was conducted on December 19, 1999. The morning and afternoon sky was clear and temperatures ranged from a morning low of 18 °F to an afternoon high of 35 °F. Winds were easterly at 5-10 mph. The Niagara River was free of ice. The snow cover was zero. Participants (40 observers in 17 parties) surveyed 16 territories (see below) and recorded 41922 individuals of 73 species. Observations were made from 5:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The total party-hours logged were 113.75 hrs., comprised of 47 hrs. on foot, 54 hrs. by car, 6.5 hrs. at feeders and 6.25 hrs. owling. The total party-miles were 686.75, comprised of 75.25 miles on foot and 611.5 miles by car.

Territories and Observers: (leaders underlined)

- A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Rd. and area boundary. Willie D'Anna. Betsy Potter, Michael Morgante. 51 species; 13,338 individuals.
- B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. Ed Crohn, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Virginia Ziebarth, Paul Ziebarth. 32 species; 744 individuals.
- C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Rd. Michael Hamilton. 23 species; 823 individuals.
- D. Canada: Black Creek south to the Peace Bridge and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way. Frances Rew, Audrey Horbett. 33 species; 2,204 individuals.
- E. Canada: Bowen Rd. south to area boundary and east to the Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. Drew Campbell, Brad Clements, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, Marcya Foster, Kayo Roy. 37 species; 3,893 individuals.



- F. Niagara Falls, NY: Porter Rd., Hyde Park Blvd., Pine Ave. and Main St. south to Niagara River, including Goat and Cayuga Islands and east to Military Rd. Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker. 27 species; 6,662 individuals.
- G. North Tonawanda: Military Rd. southeast to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River northeast to area boundary. Donald Roberson, Robert Andrie, Anna Bauer, Jerald Farrell, Gerald Condren. 37 species; 2,404 individuals.
- H. Tonawanda: Sheridan Dr. north to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River east to area boundary. Gerald Rising, William Watson. 33 species; 1,302 individuals.
- J. Buffalo: Sheridan Dr. east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River. Donald Brasure. 23 species; 1,302 individuals.
- K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Rd., north of Huth and Long Rds. to the Niagara River. Robert Wagner, John Filor. 35 species; 1,059 individuals.
- L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Rds, south to Whitehaven Rd. and Stony Point Rd. west to the Niagara River. William Burch, Thomas Burke, 30 species; 791 individuals
- M. Grand Island: East of Stony Point Rd. and north of Whitehaven to the Niagara River. Michael Zebehazy. 35 species; 2,798 individuals.
- N. Grand Island, Whitehaven Rd. south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. west to the Niagara River. Robert Brock, David Cooper, Brendan Klick, Deborah Hovland. 35 species; 711 individuals.
- O. Grand Island: , Whitehaven Rd. south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. east to the Niagara River Jim Landau, Karen Landau. 33 species; 658 individuals.
- P. Grand Island: Love Rd. south to Spaulding Rd. from the East Branch to the West Branch of the Niagara River. Douglas Happ, Pat Martin. 35 species; 1,495 individuals.
- Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Rd. to the Niagara River. William Bogacki, Edward Ratajczak. 24 species; 1,738 individuals.

Species Recorded: With reference to the species count, in those instances where a species was reported in three or fewer territories, letters in parentheses indicate the territories where the species was observed.

Common Loon	2 (D, G)	Am. Black Duck	81
Pied-billed Grebe	2 (K)	Mallard	3,990
D.-crested Cormorant	2 (A)	N. Pintail	1 (A)
Great Blue Heron	80	Gadwall	56 (A, F)
Tundra Swan	135 (H, Q) highest ever	American Wigeon	68
Canada Goose	4,808	Canvasback	4 (F) very low ave.
Wood Duck	2 (A)	Redhead	5 (F, G) low

Ring-necked Duck	1 (H)	Downy Wdpkr.	95
Greater Scaup	2037 (B, D, F)	Hairy Wdpkr.	12
Lesser Scaup	50 (F) low	N. Flicker	16
scaup sp.	2 (K)	Blue Jay	270
Oldsquaw	2 (H)	Black-c. Chickadee	463
Common Goldeneye	1353	Tufted Titmouse	26
Bufflehead	213	Red-b. Nuthatch	19
Hooded Merganser	94	White-b. Nuthatch	66
Com. Merganser	173	Brown Creeper	7 (G, L, M)
Red-br. Merganser	40	Golden-cr. Kinglet	10
Ruddy Duck	4 (F)	<u>Ruby-cr. Kinglet</u>	1 (D)
Sharp-sh. Hawk	3 (A, P)	E. Bluebird	3 (E, N)
Cooper's Hawk	6	Amer. Robin	79
Red-tailed Hawk	84	N. Mockingbird	12
Ring-n. Pheasant	5 (B, D, K)	Cedar Waxwing	12 (H, M)
American Coot	85 (K, Q)	N. Shrike	6
Bonaparte's Gull	480	Eur. Starling	6191
Ring-billed Gull	3,817	Yellow-r. Warbler	6 (A)
Herring Gull	10,834	N. Cardinal	158
Iceland Gull	2 (A)	Am. Tree Sparrow	197
L. Bl.-backed Gull	7 (A)	Song Sparrow	8
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	376	White-thr. Sparrow	7 (A, M, P)
Rock Dove	1,758	White-cr. Sparrow	1(C)
Mourning Dove	304	Dark-eyed Junco	188
E. Screech Owl	7 (A, K, P)	Brown-h. Cowbird	3 (G, P)
Great Horned Owl	2 (A, M)	Purple Finch	2 (O)
Long-eared Owl	6 (C)	House Finch	352
Belted Kingfisher	2 (A)	Com. Redpoll	5 (C, E)
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	14	Am. Goldfinch	126
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1 (K)	House Sparrow	1713

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Buffalo Ornithological Society notes with sadness the death of:

**Robert W. Brock,**  
a member since 1978, named a Fellow 1989,  
President of the Society 1984-1986.  
(Remembrances of Bob will appear in a future issue)



Please Note the Following Change of Address:

Roberta Vallone  
160 Willowdale Drive  
West Seneca, NY 12424  
Tel: 677-2649

## **BOS MEETINGS**

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-8040).

March 8: John Black from Brock University in St Catharines, Ontario will present a program about his research using radar to monitor nocturnal bird migration. For additional background information about Professor Black and his research contact <http://www.physics.brocku.ca/faculty/black.html>.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

March 19: Sunday. One-half day trip. Canada Lake Ontario shoreline to search for King Eiders, waterfowl, and early migrants. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston. Take the 190 to Exit 25A (Lewiston, Route 265 North), left at stop sign (north), through traffic light to St. Mary's Hospital South Entrance. Meet at fence on south side of hospital parking lot. Leader: Mike Morgante (683-4819).

March 25: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain of eastern Niagara County and western Orleans county. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Route 78 at the Top's Market, a block north of the Route 104 intersection. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).

April 2: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, on the south side of Main Street, 0.1 mile east of Transit Road. Leader: Morgan Jones (433-5687).

April 9: Sunday. BOS April Bird Count.

April 30: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, 0.1 mile east of Main & Transit. We will join Rochester GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay State Park picnic shelter. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS and Mike Zebehazy (662-6987).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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Buffalo, NY 14211

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Volume 66

February, 2000

ITHACA, NY 14853 Number 2

## THE MONTH: January, 2000

The new millennium on the Niagara Frontier dawned with reprise for the mild and largely snow-free weather pattern the region enjoyed throughout the autumn and early winter. For the first twelve days of the month this patterned continued; temperatures were unseasonably mild averaging twelve degrees above normal and precipitation was limited to light rain and snow showers. However, on January 12<sup>th</sup> a strong low pressure system tracking northeast from the Ohio Valley brought the first significant snowfall of the season, 5.5 inches to Buffalo and its northern suburbs; lighter falls of 4.7 inches and 5.1 inches were subsequently recorded at Buffalo on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; precipitation was otherwise limited to lake-enhanced snow showers with seasonally cooler temperatures until month's end. Our region escaped the brunt of lake effect squalls that dropped 42 inches of snow on the City of Rochester and its environs this month. The average temperature for the month at Buffalo, 23.6 °F, was exactly normal for the period; Lake Erie temperature dropped to 32 °F on January 25<sup>th</sup> and the lake was largely frozen over after that date; total precipitation for the period measured 2.65 inches, 0.05 inches below normal; snowfall totalled 19.4 inches, 6.3 inches below normal. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, NY as posted on the Internet.)

Although the month of January is traditionally the nadir of the bird-watcher's year, the first month of the new millennium will be remembered as an exciting time to be afield. With the advent of more seasonal weather by mid-month, the number of gulls and other water birds showed a marked increase on the Niagara River and adjoining bodies of water. Among the ten species of gulls observed in the Niagara River gorge this month, on January 5<sup>th</sup> Dean DiTommaso observed a smaller larid flying among the myriad Ring-billed and Herring Gulls in the gorge between the Sir Adam Beck and Robert Moses power stations. He identified the bird as a Laughing Gull, a rare straggler in our region, by direct comparison with the Ring-billed gulls that it most resembled in size; the Laughing gull is smaller and slimmer in body dimensions and has more narrow wings and a darker gray mantle. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, DiTommaso and his party found another rare winter visitor on the upper Niagara River, an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye. This sea duck was observed on the river from the Bird Island Pier at Buffalo and it was distinguished from the Common Goldeneyes with which it was associated by the crescent-



shaped loreal patch extending above the bill. An adult California Gull was seen by many observers most of the month both in repose on the New York State shoreline of the lower Niagara River north of the Robert Moses Power Intake and in flight over the gorge on both sides of the river. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Mike Galas and his party observed an immature Black-legged Kittiwake both resting in the water and in flight in the lower Niagara River below the Adam Beck Power service road. It was easily identified among the Bonaparte's Gulls in its company by its relatively larger size, a dark cervical collar and "M" shaped pattern across the upper wings. Further afield, on January 12<sup>th</sup>, Dave Neveu witnessed two "jaeger species" harassing gulls on the Van Buren Bay of Lake Erie in the Town of Pomfret in Chautauqua County. Both birds were described as "dark bodied with light wrist patches on outer wing and blunt tails"; one had a whitish rump. Neveu opines that they were probably "immature Parasitics" but too far distant for more accurate identification of field marks.

For the fourth consecutive year the Niagara Frontier is enjoying relatively mild winter weather and predictably the compiler has received several reports of facultative migrants (the "half-hardy species" of local usage) in the region. Among the birds in this category in January was a wintering Pine Warbler at a suet feeder on January 29<sup>th</sup>, behind a residence on the Barry Road in the Town of Portland in Chautauqua County, by Bill Watson and Peter Yoerg. On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Yoerg and Barbara Henderson saw a very late, and presumably wintering, Savannah Sparrow in an overgrown field on Marshall Road in the Town of Yates in Orleans County. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Mike Galas flushed a late Woodcock from a wet woodlot at Four Mile Creek Campsite on NY Route 18 in the Town of Porter in Niagara County. A further testament to the mildness of recent winters are seven reports of Carolina Wren sightings in our study area in January, a record count for the month. This wren is especially vulnerable to prolonged periods of severe winter weather and suffers high mortality rates reflected in the paucity of records reaching the compiler during such years.

Among other records worthy of note is one of an adult male Brewer's Blackbird first seen by Bill Watson and Kayo Roy on January 23<sup>rd</sup> in the company of six Rusty Blackbirds at a feeder behind a residence at the terminus of the Erie Peat Road just west of the City of Port Colborne in the Town of Wainfleet, Ontario. The bird, a rare vagrant in our study area, contrasted sharply from its congeners with its black head with purple gloss, all black body, feet and legs. This bird and the Rusty Blackbirds were still present at the feeder when it was visited by Fran Rew and her party on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Common Redpolls were reported by many observers during January including one flock of 120 birds seen by Dave Neveu on Center Road in the Town of Sheridan in Chautauqua County on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Jim Wojewodski found a Hoary Redpoll, a very rare winter visitor in our region, at a thistle feeder at his residence on the State Road in the Town of Colden in Erie County, where it was feeding amongst a group of 50 Common Redpolls; its pale coloration made the bird stand out among the darker plumages of the other birds. The bird was subsequently seen by many birders including Karen and Jim Landau. Upon returning home, the Landaus consulted the literature and an Ontario Birds website on the Internet comparing and contrasting the differences between Hoary and Common Redpolls; they concluded that Wojewodski's bird is of the *exilipes* race of the Hoary Redpoll.

Finally, on December 26<sup>th</sup>, BOS corresponding member Tim Baird of Salamanca was birding along the banks of the Alleghany Reservoir at the mouth of Quaker Run in Allegany State Park where he saw a large dark-bodied raptor which he identified as an immature Golden Eagle harrying a flock of Canada Geese. Baird, who is familiar with the species, identified the bird as a juvenile by its signature distal black band on an all white tail and small white patches on its flight feathers. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, he observed two immature Golden Eagles soaring over the Tuscarora Ridge along Route 280 east of the reservoir in the State Park. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, Baird returned to this location with Steve Eaton, emeritus professor of biology at St. Bonaventure University and author of *Birds of Cattaraugus County*, and again observed the birds in flight for 15 minutes. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, Baird again returned to this location and observed an immature Golden Eagle feeding on the remains of a large bird that he could not identify as to species. Upon taking flight, the eagle landed in a large



pine tree some 100 meters distant from the observer where it was joined by a second large "uniformly dark" bird that Baird identified as an adult Golden Eagle! In conversation with Peter Nye of the State Department of Environmental Conservation at Latham, NY who is in charge of the department's raptor restoration program, Baird was informed that his sightings may indicate that these birds may be part of a wintering population and, if so, the first for the Western New York region. The species is still regarded as an uncommon seasonal migrant with a small wintering population in the southeastern part of the state and no evidence of recent nesting activity.

Joe Thill

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Loon	7	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	17	1	Devil's Hole S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	1,19;29	3,5;7	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew; Watson
"	1	1	Buffalo Harbor	D. Rosche; K&J Landau
Horned Grebe	12	105	Sheridan	Neveu
"	15	4	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
D.-crested Cormorant	1,19;29	23,36;42	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew; Watson
"	2	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Morgante
"	24	5	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby
Great Blue Heron	14	16	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Galas, Watson
"	18;23	46;29	Strawberry Island	Burch; Watson
Snow Goose	1	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	R&D Rosche; Klick
Mute Swan	28;29	3;3	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew; Watson et al
Tundra Swan	1	16	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby
"	1	1	Cassadaga	Rew et al
"	17	13	Beaver Is. S.P.	T. O'Donnell
"	21,29	139,139	Strawberry Island	Burch, Brasure
"	29	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
Gadwall	2	16	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Black Duck	2	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	2	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	2	3	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holme
"	5	1	Youngstown	Horne

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Pintail	22	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
Green-winged Teal	2;8	2;1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Morgante; Rew, Horbett
Canvasback	18;21	6000;7416	Beaver Is. S.P.	Wojewodzki; Burch, Brasure
"	26	109	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Redhead	2;14	45;50	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Andrle; Watson
"	18	300	Beaver Is. S.P.	Wojewodzki
"	25	70	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	1	15	Buffalo Harbor	R&D Rosche
"	2;17	9;3	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Andrle; D'Anna
"	15	1	Olcott	D'Anna
"	17	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	41	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Greater Scaup	15	2000	Carlton to Porter	D'Anna
"	24	7100	Buffalo	Klick
Lesser Scaup	9	5	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Morgante
"	22	100	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	29	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Surf Scoter	23;29	1;1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson et al
White-winged Scoter	12	110	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	15	1150	Carlton to Porter	D'Anna
"	19	745	Olcott to Somerset	Cooper, Farrell
"	23	600	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
"	30	575	Somerset	J&M Jones
Black Scoter	8	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Oldsquaw	23	1180	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg
"	23	2000	Lower Niagara River	Skalicky, Davis
Common Goldeneye	9	1550	Niagara Falls	Klick
"	22	1107	Niagara River	Roberson et al
Barrow's Goldeneye	30	1	Buffalo & Fort Erie	DiTommaso
Hooded Merganser	26	18	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	18	3500	Beaver Is. S.P.	Wojewodzki
"	22	2142	Niagara River	Roberson et al
Ruddy Duck	18	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Burch
"	28	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	29	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
Bald Eagle	2,9	2,6	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4,29	2,2	Lewiston	S. O'Donnell
"	6	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	23	1 ad.	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1 ad.	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1 ad.	Navy Island	Rew, Horbett
Rough-legged Hawk	1,10	7,14	South Dayton	Neveu



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Golden Eagle	16	2	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Merlin	<u>5,26,27,28</u>	2,1,1,3	Buffalo (UB)	Yoerg
Wild Turkey	16	2	Buffalo	Yoerg
American Coot	1,19	40,74	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
"	1	80	Buffalo Harbor	R&D Rosche
"	2	54	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	14;17	68;53	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson; D'Anna
"	18	5	Beaver Is. S.P.	Wojewodzki
Killdeer	2	1	Jos. Davis S.P.	Horne
American Woodcock	<u>1</u>	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Galas
<u>Jaeger species</u>	12	2	Pomfret	Neveu
Laughing Gull	5	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	DiTommaso
Little Gull	2-23	3 max.	Lewiston	several observers
"	2	6	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	9	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Morgante
"	16	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Bonaparte's Gull	1	10000	Niagara River	R&D Rosche
"	2	3000	Lewiston	Morgante
"	4,12	13100,15550	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
<u>California Gull</u>	1,2	1	R. Moses Power Plant	D'Anna
Iceland Gull	9	7	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
"	9	13	Queenston, Ont.	Klick
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2;4	3;3	Niagara Falls	Morgante; Bellerby
"	2;9	4;4	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Morgante; Skalicky, Davis
"	29	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Glaucous Gull	4;9	1;1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson; Morgante
"	9	3	Queenston, Ont.	Klick
"	18	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Great Black-b. Gull	30	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg
Black-leg. Kittiwake	<u>9</u>	1	Lewiston	Galas, Watson
Snowy Owl	9;11;14-19	1;2;1	Buffalo Waterfront	Morgante; Andrie; several observers
Short-eared Owl	1	2	South Dayton	Rew et al
"	2;15;17	2;1;1	Porter	Morgante; Potter; O'Donnell
"	7,26	1,2	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	21,26;29	6,10;10	Wheatfield	D'Anna, Potter; Roberson
"	22,29	1	Wales	Bee
"	30	1	Shelby	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	17-28	1	Batavia	M&J Mason
"	20	1	East Aurora	R&D Rosche
Northern Shrike	1-30	12 reports	throughout BOS area	numerous observers
Common Raven	2	5	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15	7	Salamanca	R&D Rosche
"	16,30	1,2	Holiday Valley	Morgante

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Horned Lark				
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	29	80	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	45	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
Tufted Titmouse	23	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Watson, Roy
Carolina Wren	1-31	2	East Aurora	R&D Rosche
"	1-31	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	5	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	6,15	1	Darien	Harper
"	14	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Galas
"	23	1	Goat Island	Skalicky, Davis
"	29	1	Canadaway Creek N.S.	Watson et al
Eastern Bluebird	2	6	West Falls	Galas, Rising
"	2	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	7	8	Lewiston	S. O'Donnell
"	8,9	5	Elma	P&B Fuhrmann
"	10	11	Perrysburg	Neveu
"	29	3	Somerset	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	3	Hartland	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	3	Portland	Watson, Yoerg
"	30	1	Lockport	S&T O'Donnell
American Robin	29	155	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	140	Somerset	S&T O'Donnell
Gray Catbird	15	1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Dunkirk	Rew et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	6	6	Pomfret	Neveu
Pine Warbler	<u>29</u>	1	Portland	Watson
Savannah Sparrow	<u>23</u>	1	Yates	Yoerg
Swamp Sparrow	3	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	30	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
White-cr. Sparrow	28	1	Sheridan	Rew
Lapland Longspur	29	43	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
Snow Bunting	2	10	Fort Niagara S.P.	Morgante
"	21	12	Perrysburg	Neveu
"	23	7	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	100	Sheldon	D. Rosche
"	29	100	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
Red-w. Blackbird	15	15	South Park	Andrle
Eastern Meadowlark	29	1	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
Rusty Blackbird	23;29	6;6	Wainfleet, Ont.	Watson; Rew
"	26	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
<u>Brewer's Blackbird</u>	23;29	1;1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Watson; Rew
Common Grackle	20-23	1	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	250	Tonawanda	Watson
"	15	8	South Park	Andrle



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Brown-headed Coewbird	16	1	Darien	Harper
"	23	1	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	1	North Java	R&D Rosche
Purple Finch	1-31	2	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
White-w. Crossbill	27	1	Silver Creek(f)	Neveu
Common Redpoll	1-31	10 reports	throughout WNY	many observers
"	2	95	Orchard Park	Klick
"	15	140	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	120	Sheridan	Neveu
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	20,22,23	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	23	1	Colden	K. Landau
Evening Grosbeak	9	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	6	Beaver Meadow N.S.	Mark
"	27	23	Wethersfield	R&D Rosche

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this year .....	112
Total for year .....	112

Also reported in January: Canada Goose, Am. Widgeon, Mallard, Bufflehead, Red-br. Merganser; Northern Harrier, Sharp-sh. Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-b. Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-br. Nuthatch, White-br. Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-thr. Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Statisticians' Note**

If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for the decision.

**BOS Rare Bird Phone Tree**

The BOS rare bird phone tree, last updated in 1993, is currently under revision by Brendan Klick. The phone tree is used for rapid notification of *exceptional rarities* providing tree participants an opportunity to observe the bird(s). This is accomplished with a relay of phone messages to the tree members. Therefore phone tree participants will (i.) call other tree members (ii.) be accessible by telephone and (iii.) have access to an answering machine. The phone tree may be particularly useful for birders who do not use OntBirds or GeneseeBirds list servers. If you are interested in the BOS phone tree and would like to be included on the list please contact Brendan Kick at 716-839-1792.

Brendan Klick

## **Buffalo's Peregrine Falcons Are Ready For Another Season**

The pair of Peregrine Falcons that raised three young in the Statler nest box during 1999 are again present. In preparation for the upcoming nesting season, Mark Kandel of the Department of Environmental Conservation installed the color camera (donated by the BOS) in the nest box during mid-December. The TV monitor is in the US Airways office and one of their employees (Doris) is recording Peregrine Falcon visits to the box.

It is quite likely that the birds have over-wintered in the Buffalo area. At 9:45 a.m. of December 17, 1999 two birds were present; one in the box and one on the perch. Since then at least one bird has been at the box nearly every day of the week, often staying only a short time. Kandel believes the birds have roosted in or near the box much of the winter. This writer observed one adult sitting on the Statler building roof December 30, 1999 at 1:25 p.m. It remained there for 40 minutes.

In 1999 Peregrines were seen near the Statler building on February 1 and 16. The first egg was laid on March 18, 1999. Lets keep in touch with the pair and hope for a good nesting in 2000.

Bill Burch

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**





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## THE MONTH: February, 2000

There were two seasons during February - winter during the first three weeks, and spring-summer during the final week. The month began on a wintry note with below freezing temperatures during the first eight days and then normal readings through February 20. An incredible warmup ensued during the final week with high temperatures in the 50° F. range, about 15°F. above the long term average. The mercury rose to 71°F. on February 26, making this June-like reading the warmest ever recorded in February in Buffalo. Another record high of 64°F. was registered on February 27. The month ended with an average temperature of nearly 30°F., over five degrees above the normal. Precipitation was slightly less than average in this normally driest month of the year. Snowfall was a normal 16.2 inches, most of it falling on February 13-14 and 18-19. The ground was totally snow-covered until the rapid warm up during the last week melted it quickly with few flooding problems.

Except for a six-week period from January 13 through February 21, winter was a stranger to Western New York. During these 40 days, snow fell on 37 of them, but the largest fall was only 5.5 inches making this the first winter in 19 years that Buffalo escaped an entire winter season without a snowfall of six inches or more. It was the fourth consecutive mild winter and the sixteenth warmest in the 57 years of record at the Buffalo Airport. It was also very dry, the eighth driest in the same 57-year period. The seasonal snowfall of 49.2 inches was 30 inches below normal and ranked the eleventh lowest in Buffalo Airport records. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, NY as posted on the Internet).

An interesting aside about this winter's weather was provided by the March 10, 2000 issue of *USA TODAY*. Nationally this winter - December through February - was the warmest since the government began keeping records 105 years ago. The average temperature of 38.4°F. topped last year's record of 37.8°F. Meteorologists suspect that the warming is due to the phenomenon called La Nina and global warming, all of which might mean more extreme weather - heat waves, floods, and droughts.

Niagara Frontier birding during February this year can be easily divided into two very definite segments - winter birding during the first three weeks, and spring birding during the last. Without a doubt, the winter "Bird-



of-the-Month" had to be the adult Franklin's Gull that remained at Dunkirk Harbor on Lake Erie in Chautauqua County from February 6-24. Apparently driven into the ice-free harbor by the freezing over of Lake Erie, this rare vagrant from the mid-continent, was enjoyed by numerous birders from throughout the area and well documented by careful field students from Erie and Niagara Counties. Save for a few flight feathers, this individual appeared to be in full breeding plumage, not unprecedented for a mid-winter Franklin's Gull in the writer's experience. He well remembers his first Nebraska wintering Franklin's Gull, a full-plumaged breeding adult on a Christmas Bird Count in late December. This year the writer also noted a Franklin's Gull in full breeding plumage in mid-February on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This is an interesting comparison to the winter straggler Franklin's Gulls that were reported after the historic movement of November 1998; most of these were apparently adults in more typical winter plumage.

Dunkirk Harbor also hosted a number of other waterfowl species after Lake Erie became mostly ice-covered. Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Tundra Swan, Surf Scoter, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck were among the more unusual species seen, often in higher than expected numbers.

For the second consecutive winter, large numbers of wintering waterfowl were concentrated on that part of the Niagara River between the ice-boom and the Peace Bridge opposite the city of Buffalo. The large numbers did not occur this winter, however, until most of Lake Erie was frozen. The reader is referred to the numbers listed below for Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser in order to understand the size of this huge concentration. Lesser numbers of almost all of the other regular wintering ducks were also present. At this same location the second most interesting winter "Bird-of-the-Month" was a male Barrow's Goldeneye that was noted by many observers, but documented by only one, for about two weeks between February 4 and 15. Most often seen from the Bird Island pier in Buffalo, this irregular straggler from the northern coasts was often difficult to pick out from among the thousands of other ducks. The Black Scoter, also observed in the same general area, was noteworthy because there have been few February records in the region. The highest number of wintering Ring-necked Ducks ever recorded in the region was also noted during the month on the Niagara River in the Buffalo-Fort Erie, Ontario vicinity.

Farther downstream at the Dufferin Islands, a lagoon-like setting adjacent to the Niagara River at Niagara Falls, Ontario, a female Blue-winged Teal, very rare in winter in the north, was studied carefully by several competent observers. A male Green-winged Teal and a male and female Northern Pintail were also sometimes reported at the same location. The gull show on the Lower Niagara River was about average; a count of 42 Little Gulls on February 26 was regionally significant as was the appearance of an adult Black-headed Gull in winter plumage during the last week of the month. The latter was often difficult to locate because the small-sized gull population fluctuated greatly from day to day. Gordon Bellerby surmised that these population booms and busts, as well as those of the Oldsquaw, were caused by the water becoming very murky due to the rapid thawing of the snow cover. At these times most of these birds stayed on Lake Ontario rather than moving up the river for feeding purposes.

Buffalo's urbanized wintering population of Merlins, apparently grew to three, when that number were noted at the old University of Buffalo campus in the northeastern sector of the city.

Internet sources indicate that this is a growing trend in additional urbanized areas in the Northeast. Common Redpolls continued to be present in large numbers, many gorging themselves at feeding stations. As to be expected when large numbers of Common Redpolls move south, there were several reports of the difficult-to-identify similar species, the Hoary Redpoll. However, documentation was not submitted for any of the individuals reported. Hans Kunze of Warsaw, New York commented that he was aware of weak and dead redpolls at two feeders in his area. He wondered if other feeding station operators had noticed the same situation, similar to that which has occurred among feeding station populations of closely related species, Pine Siskins and House Finches, in years past.



The spring weather conditions that developed during the last week of the month, with the period of February 24-26 being particularly notable, caused a rush of early spring migrants into the Region - vultures, waterfowl, hawks, American Coot, Killdeer, American Woodcock, and blackbirds. Bill Watson commented that he had never before seen so many Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles so widespread during the last few days of February. A migrant Bald Eagle possessing a green tag on its right wing showed up on the last day of the month on the Niagara River at Lewiston, where the same individual has periodically been seen since 1984.

The spring weather during the last week of the month also prompted those persons who usually man the Hamburg Hawk-Watch Site at Lakeside Cemetery to commence operations a week earlier than usual. Some of the observers were treated to a very special occasion on the final day of the month - a Black Vulture flying overhead, undoubtedly the spring "Bird-of-the-Month" for February. This was about the third documented record for the B.O.S. study area, the first two being from the early 1980's. This is another more southern species that continually follows its close relative, the Turkey Vulture, in moving farther and farther northward every year. The Internet has reported individuals from eastern Long Island and several southern and central New England sites this spring where it previously had been rare or unknown. The only New York State area where it is known to be regular is in the Lower Hudson River Valley and that is a relatively recent event. How many Black Vultures will be discovered on February 29 in future years in Western New York!

Richard C. Rosche

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year. F - Indicates first record for the migration. L - Indicates last record for the migration  
(f) - Indicates record from feeding station. PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	8,28	1,4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Galas
Horned Grebe	27	14	Somerset	Klick, Sowinski
D.-crested Cormorant	12;17	68;50	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; R&D Rosche
Great Blue Heron	29	35	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
*Black-cr. Night-Heron	12	1	Buffalo	Morgante
* <u>Black Vulture</u>	29	1	Hamburg Hawk-watch	Rew, Andrle
*Turkey Vulture	21F	1	Wheatfield	Roberson
"	26	20	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	26,27	1,17	Hamburg Hawk-watch	Rew et al
"	26	1	Aurora	Wojewodzki
Snow Goose	27F	1	Pendleton	Klick; Morgante
Tundra Swan	6	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13;21	110;130	Chippawa, Ont.	J&K Landau; Wojewodzki
"	20	179	Beaver Is. S.P.	Burch
*Wood Duck	26F	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna
Gadwall	26F	3	Olcott	Watson et al
American Wigeon	26F	11	Olcott	Watson et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Wigeon	26F	5	Newstead	D'Anna, Potter
*Blue-winged Teal	<u>17;21</u>	1	Dufferin Is., Ont.	Roy; D'Anna
Northern Pintail	15	1	Goat Island	Guthrie
"	21	5	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	26	4	Newstead	Watson et al
"	27	112	Royalton	Klick, Sowinski
Green-winged Teal	13-23	1	Dufferin Is., Ont.	several observers
Canvasback	13	7000	Beaver Is. S.P.	Morgante
Redhead	21	300	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
Ring-necked Duck	12;13;21	66;45;52	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna; Andrie; Klick
"	13	10	Beaver Is. S.P.	Morgante
"	27	99	Royalton	Klick, Sowinski
Greater Scaup	21	10500	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
Lesser Scaup	15	5	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
Surf Scoter	4,15	1,1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	8;17;21	2;2;2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; R&D Rosche; Rew
"	13;21	2;1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson et al; Sowinski
White-winged Scoter	13	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Galas
"	13	1800	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Black Scoter	<u>6</u>	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna
Oldsquaw	15	2290	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Bufflehead	21	800	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
Common Goldeneye	21	2200	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	6	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna
Red-br. Merganser	21	6000	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
Bald Eagle	7,9,10,16	1,2,1,2 @nest	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kahl
"	12	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	13	1 im.	Beaver Is. S.P.	Morgante
"	17	2 @ nest	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg
"	21-29	2 ad.	Lewiston	several observers
"	26	1 im.	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	2 im.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Galas
*Red-shouldered Hawk	12	1	Willoughby, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	16,17	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kahl
"	29F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Rough-legged Hawk	1-29	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kahl
"	12-29	11 rpts.	throughout WNY	numerous observers
"	26F	9	over Silver Creek	Neveu
"	26F	5	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Merlin	<u>1,11,17</u>	2,3,2	Buffalo (UB)	Yoerg
"	<u>14,27</u>	1,1	Buffalo (UB)	Klick
"	<u>17</u>	1	Buffalo (UB)	Watson et al
"	<u>21</u>	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sowinski, Klick



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Peregrine Falcon	<u>4</u>	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	<u>13</u>	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	K. Landau
American Coot	17;28	75;98	Dunkirk Harbor	R&D Rosche; Watson et al
Killdeer	23F	2	Hamburg	Andrle, Rew
"	24	1	Oakfield	Vogt
*Franklin's Gull	<u>6</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg
"	<u>8</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Galas
"	<u>10,12</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
"	<u>12</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna; Andrle
"	<u>17</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	R&D Rosche
Little Gull	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	12,26	11,42	Lewiston	Bellerby; Watson
* <u>Black-headed Gull</u>	20	1	Queenston, Ont.	Escott
"	27	1	Lewiston	D'Anna, et al
Iceland Gull	4	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Glaucous Gull	2	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew, Horbett
"	4	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	12	3	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	21	3	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick
Snowy Owl	18	1	Niag. Falls Airport	Norris
*Long-eared Owl	5	3	Stevensville, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
Short-eared Owl	3;19;24	8;5;1	Wheatfield	Watson; Landau; Galas
"	3	1	Wales	Bee
"	4	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	19	1	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2	1	East Aurora	R&D Rosche
Northern Shrike	2	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle
"	6	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	8	1	Wheatfield	Galas
"	9;21	1;1	Somerset	Watson et al; Wojewodzki
"	12	1	Cherry Creek	Rew, Horbett
"	17	1	Allegany S.P.	Watson et al
"	18	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	19	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Common Raven	17	3	Allegany S.P.	Galas et al, Yoerg
Carolina Wren	3-20	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	21	1	Lake Erie S.P.	Neveu
"	22	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	27	1	Como Park	Morgante
"	27	1	Queenston, Ont.	Morgante
"	29	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Eastern Bluebird	2	8	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew, Horbett
"	6	7	Niagara	Rew, Horbett
"	12	5	Pomfret	Rew, Horbett

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Eastern Bluebird	21-29	8 rpts.	throughout WNY, Ont.	various observers
*Hermit Thrush	26	2	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Galas et al
American Robin	13	405	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Gray Catbird	29	1	Snyder	Klick
Northern Mockingbird	21	1	Pomfret	Neveu
Yellow-r. Warbler	6	1	Eden Valley	Andrle
"	6,21	10,12	Lake Erie S.P.	Neveu
White-cr. Sparrow	2	6	Snyder, Ont.	Rew, Horbett
Lapland Longspur	13	45	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
Snow Bunting	6	20	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
Red-w. Blackbird	13	28	South Park	Rew
"	15	1	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	17	120	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Roy
"	24F	4	Tonawanda	Watson
"	26	80	Porter	Watson et al
"	26	100	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
Eastern Meadowlark	27F	1	Newstead	Morgante
Rusty Blackbird	4	5	Tonawanda	Watson
Common Grackle	17	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Roy
"	24F,25	4,33	Tonawanda	Watson
"	24F	1	Wheatfield(f)	D'Anna
"	24F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Brown-headed Cowbird	13	2	Tonawanda	Galas
"	17	20	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Roy
Purple Finch	10	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	12	1	Warsaw	Kunze
Common Redpoll	1-29	100 max.	Warsaw	Kunze
"	1-29	9 max.	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	1-29	60 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	4,19	5,3	Wheatfield	Cooper
"	7,18	2	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	12	20	Chautauqua	Neveu
"	13	14	Sheridan	S&T O'Donnell
"	18	6	Buffalo	Galas
"	19	200	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
"	25	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Evening Grosbeak	12	40	Ellery	Neveu
"	17	1	Salamanca	Yoerg
"	25,27	2,4	Amity Lake	Pitzrick

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this year ..... 112

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue ..... 11

Total for year ..... 123



## Statisticians' Note

If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for the decision.

Erratum: In *Prothonotary*, January 2000, p. 7, Christmas Bird Count, **add**: 1 Nor. Shoveler (H), Dec. 19.

## A TRIBUTE TO BOB BROCK

Forward by Bill Watson

Each of us in the Buffalo Ornithological Society remembers Bob Brock in many different ways. Bob was president of the Buffalo Ornithological Society from 1984 to 1986. He authored "Photographs of New York State Rarities 59: Slaty-backed Gull" in *The Kingbird* and fifteen species accounts for *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Furthermore, Brock was recognized in the forward of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* as outstanding, among many dedicated persons who helped with recruiting and organizing Atlasers, making block assignments and telephone calls, checking and correlating field reports, and distributing supplies.

To many other BOS members Bob Brock is remembered quite differently. Brendan Klick, Vicky Onorato and others tell of how uneasy they felt as new members participating in their first BOS field trip, and how Bob Brock offered them a ride in his van, put them at ease and made them feel welcome. Others such as Bob Sundell, Dick Miga, Gerry Rising, and Mike Zebehazy have fond memories of Bob on the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.

We remember Bob from Society meetings, field trips, bird counts and the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage. We remember Bob as an artist, sculptor, photographer, college professor, author, birder, president, mentor, colleague, and atlas worker. Most of all we remember and cherish Bob Brock as a caring and kind friend who never spoke a harsh word nor made a thoughtless remark about anyone or anything.

I would like to thank Paul Martin, Bob Andrie, Gerry Rising, Debra Hovland, Mike Zebehazy, and Dick Miga for submitting the following remembrances of Bob Brock. Although most of us most of us knew Bob as a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, very few of us are familiar with his background and work as a sculptor and a teacher, so perhaps we should first look at the remembrance written by Paul Martin who worked with Bob in the Fine Arts Department at the State University of New York College at Buffalo.

### Robert Brock the Artist

submitted by his friend and colleague Paul Martin

In 1936, Robert (Bob) Brock was born in Barnesville OH, located in the southern part of the state. His parents owned a small dairy farm. He graduated from high school in 1954 and immediately enrolled at both the University of Dayton and the Dayton Art Institute, where he received the undergraduate degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) with a major in Sculpture in 1960. He entered graduate school at Ohio University in Athens, and was awarded a Graduate Assistantship in Sculpture by the Fine Arts Department. He graduated with the degree of Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in 1962, with a major in Sculpture and a minor in Art History. In 1962, he joined the faculty at the State University of New York College at Buffalo, earning continuing appointment and promotion to the rank of full Professor in the Fine Arts Department over the course of his career.

From the time he left high school and throughout undergraduate school, Bob worked as an assistant to the noted architectural sculptor, Robert Koepnick. Shortly after joining the faculty at Buffalo State, he showed his



work as an artist/sculptor to New York City gallery dealers, and received very favorable response and encouragement. He chose, however, not to pursue that direction but rather to devote his time and energies to teaching and to his students. He received several sabbatical leaves from the college to continue to pursue the development of his own ideas and aesthetic as an artist and member of the faculty. As an exhibiting artist, he regularly participated in solo and group exhibitions of his work. He was also sought out to sculpture commissions, notably, a church in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Millard-Fillmore Suburban Hospital.

### **Bob as a Friend and Contributor to Ornithology**

submitted by Robert F. Andrie

For over two decades Bob Brock was a good friend with whom I worked frequently, and we often shared our thoughts and ideas on a great variety of subjects. Most often, however, our discussions involved matters concerning birds, such as species accounts that he wrote for *Bull's Birds of New York State*, and the Buffalo Ornithological Society, as well as the Buffalo Museum of Science and his own institution, the State University College.

Frequently we would discuss photography, and more recently computers and their operation, about both of which Bob was quite knowledgeable; we also talked about gulls, in which each of us had a special interest. Bob was also a good artist and his paintings of gulls and other species were pleasing to the eye. His fine photograph of the very rare Slaty-backed Gull at Niagara Falls appeared in *The Kingbird*, and that of a Glaucous Gull in the excellent Niagara River Important Bird Area booklet just published. In our talks Bob always was a good and thoughtful conversationalist and I often gained valuable insights and observations from him, expressed in a straightforward and cogent manner.

Occasionally he would accompany me and others on bird counts, field trips on the Niagara River for gulls and waterfowl or on a Society field trip that he was leading. Not only was he an amiable and adaptable field companion, but he also contributed solidly to our bird observations. I particularly remember our work together on the first New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, on which he not only assisted me greatly with my work as Coordinator for our region, especially with computer printouts of Atlas blocks and data updates of progress for each, but also in the field, notably with the "blockbusting" that was necessary to complete some areas. I recall with pleasure the days that we spent camping while covering the Atlas blocks and enjoying the birds we found, particularly the delightful morning and late afternoon song choruses.

I greatly miss his good nature and counsel and his passing is a real loss to our Society, to which he devoted much effort and interest.

### **Bob Brock Remembered**

submitted by Gerry Rising

I have known Bob Brock for many years but for much of that time it was simply as a fellow BOS member. Among other things, he was one step above me on the Hotline phone tree and always supplied me with accurate information about unusual birds in the region. We also served together for several years on the BOS grants committee where I much appreciated Bob's responsible leadership. But then several years ago we agreed to share a cabin at the annual Audubon Pilgrimage in Allegany State Park. Our first trip was so pleasant that we repeated it two more times.

Because I already knew Bob by reputation, it came as no surprise to find him not only a wonderful birder but also great fun to be with. We did a great deal of birding on those three weekends and on two of them Bob



was able to show me the elusive Lawrence's Warbler. On the third, he tried his best but, despite an hour of effort on Bob's part, the damned bird was willing to be seen only by him.

Bob also took me to that remarkable area of blow-down in the park that resulted from a localized tornado there several years earlier. We found several rare warblers there but we were both amused as well as excited to find a Common Merganser standing atop a dead tree.

As fellow teachers we shared the usual "war" stories. Although they gave us many laughs, Bob's descriptions of his interactions with his art students made it clear to me that he was a deeply caring mentor. He is the kind of person I would have been delighted to have had teach my own children.

I am only one of those who were fortunate enough to have known Bob Brock, every one of whom will, I am certain, miss him deeply.

### **How Bob and I Joined the Society**

submitted by Bill Watson

As a teacher at City Honors I had the privilege of teaching both of Bob Brock's children. Kyle Brock was in my Biology class in 1978-1979. He was very interested in ornithology. For his science project he analyzed Snowy Owl pellets, and compared and contrasted the diet of the Snowy Owl to the diet of the Great Horned Owl. Kyle's Snowy Owl project was not only good science, but also aesthetically appealing and well presented. Kyle's interest in birds was infectious, and Bob also became interested in them. Bob often admitted to me that Kyle was the reason that he became a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

Kyle's interest in birds brought his father into the BOS, and Bob and his daughter Kirsten were instrumental in bringing me into the Society. Kirsten Brock was probably the best student in my Physics Lab. The casual conversation some times was about birds. I would talk about a Great Horned Owl's nest I was studying, and she would talk about her father's field work on *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Since Kirsten also talked to her father, she soon found herself relaying messages between Bob and myself.

This resulted in me taking Bob into the woods west of Two Mile Creek Road on April 27, 1985, to view the Great Horned Owl nest, as well as some early migrants, such as Blue-headed Vireo, Solitary Sandpiper, and Savannah Sparrow. On May 19, 1985, Bob invited me to the BOS May count and we spent late spring and early summer bringing many Atlas blocks up to fifty species of birds. During this time Bob informed me of BOS field trips and activities and often asked if I was interested in becoming a member. As I had always regarded bird watching a relaxing investigation of nature's solitude, I was reluctant to join a birding organization, but with Bob's encouragement I finally joined in 1986.

When I first came to the meetings I was impressed by Bob's leadership as president. He was quiet, and soft spoken, yet direct and to the point when bringing issues before the society. Bob would simply state the issue in the simplest terms and ask the society what they wanted to do. He strongly believed that a president's responsibility was to preside, not decide. He led the society with a gentle strength.

Bob worked section 4 for the BOS Bird Counts. He started counting in section 4 in April of 1979, and I started assisting Bob in May of 1985. Bob and I worked together on over 40 BOS Bird Counts and practically all of the counts we did together were in section 4. Bob would always have an amusing story to tell about birding in section 4, and after doing section 4 together for one and a half decades there was bound to be some repetition, but I always quietly listened, because I could tell by the expression on his face that he enjoyed telling me of past birding experiences even more than I enjoyed listening.

Bob was meticulous and kept detailed records. He never once forgot to note the time and mileage at the exact moment we entered the section and left the section. In later years he would have a checklist that contained the high and low counts for each species, high and low counts for total species, high and low counts



for total individuals, and the number of “sure bets” (birds that Bob always got every year he did that April, May, or October Count).

Bob Brock was a gentle and kind person. I never heard him say an unkind or thoughtless word about anyone or anything. He will be deeply missed by the society and be deeply missed as a friend. I know I can never set foot in Section 4 without a deep feeling of loss.

**Robert Brock a Friend, a Mentor, a Colleague**  
submitted by Deborah Hovland

When Robert Brock died early last month I lost a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. I loved birding with Robert. I have so many fond memories of him, all of which are going to make the first April bird count without him an extremely bittersweet experience. Bill Watson and I have done counts without Robert in the past. But those times were different because we knew that his absence was only temporary, that we could count on him being with us next time. I'm glad that I had one last chance to bird with him this last December. I enjoyed every minute of it, even though for most of the day my feet were stiff from the cold and my nose running uncontrollably. Robert was so upbeat and in such good shape during the Christmas Bird Count that, when the end came only a few short weeks later, I at first refused to believe the truth.

These days, certain situations usually remind me of him. For instance, I have actually started to enjoy sitting in my cold car in predawn darkness. The experience takes me back to when I sat in Robert's van on bird count mornings, waiting for the heater to kick in, watching my breath fog up the windshield. The song of the white-throated sparrow also reminds me of Robert. During what turned out to be his last October bird count, everywhere we turned we heard white-throated sparrows whose autumnal efforts to sing their spring courtship song were incomplete, out of tune, or otherwise out of whack. It made us laugh on a cold morning.

I will miss Robert's humor, gentleness, and talent for identifying the little brown jobbers of spring and fall. If I could, I'd thank him for taking me under his wing. And the pun would most certainly be intended.

**A Gentleman and a Friend**  
submitted by Mike Zebehazy

When I heard the news of Bob's death from Bill Burch I was speechless. It was a shock to know that such a fine man had all too abruptly reached the end of his time here with us. Immediately, of course, I was filled with memories of him and the times we had birded together.

Bob helped me find my first Black-headed Gull in Queenston on a BOS/GOS joint trip out of Fort Niagara, an annual event he led for many years. On another occasion, I helped him survey one of his territories for the Breeding Bird Atlas. More recently, there was the time he joined me at Woodlawn Beach to observe and corroborate an American Avocet I had located. These times were particularly memorable, because it was just Bob and myself so we were able to share our thoughts and ideas about many things.

Since we were both teachers, we discussed education topics, students and the politics within the institutions we were employed. Later we discovered a shared interest in Wagnerian opera. In all of this Bob was a pleasure to converse with because he had a logical, methodical way of explaining just what was on his mind.

Bob was always a gentleman and a friend. I am fortunate to have two of his paintings framed and on display at home. They will serve as a fitting memorial to an excellent birder, and a wonderful man. To his wife and family I extend my deepest sympathy.



**Bob Remembered at the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage**  
submitted by Dick Miga

I first met Bob at the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage many years ago as we shared leader duties teaching, and, hopefully motivating the participants into the joys of birding. Our tours of duty ranged from the 6 AM walks on Anderson Trail to the advanced bird trips during the day. When time permitted, Bob and I would wander away from the crowds and enjoy a little quiet time just cruising the park and particularly the France Brook Trail that we both enjoyed.

On a few other occasions we would meet at Federation meetings or bird trips, but our real friendship always revolved around Allegany. I was shocked and saddened to learn of his passing, and wish his family condolences and prayers. The next Allegany pilgrimage will feel quite different to me, but I guess I will make a quiet personal trip to France Brook with memories of a great birder and friend.

**Ontario Owl Field Trip**  
**February 20, 2000**

Over 40 BOS members and guests along with the members of the Bert Miller Nature Club trudged through heavy snow and braved frigid temperatures to seek out the elusive owls of the Niagara Region during the annual and ever-popular Ontario Owl Field Trip. Co-leaders Terry Yonker, Blayne Farnan and Jean Farnan led the group over a course of 150 miles from Rock Point to Fort Erie in an effort to find Long-eared, Short-eared, Eastern Screech, Northern Saw-whet, Great Horned and Snowy Owls. But unlike previous years, we saw only two gray morph Screech Owls, a Great Horned Owl and a fleeting glimpse of two Long-eared Owls in flight during the nine-hour trip. The Short-eared Owls normally seen along Ott Road were absent. Long-eared Owls normally seen near Wellandport were nowhere to be seen. An encouraging sign was the report by Blayne that 8-9 Long-eared Owls were seen at the Stevensville Conservation Area prior to our visit. A few participants saw two of the edgy predators as they flushed upon our approach to the pines at Stevensville.

A real treat for the numbed group was a close-up view of a gray morph Eastern Screech Owl in a Wood Duck nesting box near Wyldewood. Later in the day Jean Farnan caught a 50 km/h glimpse of another gray morph bird in a small opening of a utility shed along Lakeshore Road east of Low Banks. We all returned to enjoy another close up view of this pint-sized predator. An unamused Great Horned Owl was seen on its nest along the Second Concession Road.

Other interesting sightings on the trip were a dozen Wild Turkeys, several flocks of Snow Buntings, and numerous Horned Larks in the open fields along Highway 3. Between Rock Point and Low Banks along H-N 3, we witnessed a Rough-legged Hawk and two Red-tailed Hawks harassing several hundred Mallards in an open field. One of the Red-tailed Hawks was observed over a Mallard kill. Our group witnessed a fascinating in-flight display of aggression between the Rough-legged and one of the Red-tailed Hawks.

Other birds observed on the field trip were Mourning Doves, Cardinals, Blue Jays, American Kestrel, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Tundra Swan, American Tree Sparrow and numerous other common winter passerines.

Many thanks to Blayne and Jean Farnan, who spend hours in the field locating owls well in advance of field trip. Upon returning home to Youngstown, Lynne Landon and I enjoyed the calling of two Eastern Screech Owls at Fort Niagara State Park.

Terry Yonker

Has it been a while since you witnessed the excitement of spring migration in full swing? Have we got a bird count for you! Maybe you've just fallen out of the habit of participating on a bird count, or maybe you're a newer member who hasn't been on a count yet. Perhaps you feel that your birding skills are a little rusty or that we have all the observers we need. There are lots of sections without enough coverage and we are always looking for more eyes! Contact May Count compiler Jim Landau at 716-941-3869 or e-mail: [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Please Welcome the Following New Members:

Alphonse Kolodziejczak  
70 Rollingwood  
Williamsville, NY 14221-1834  
716-568-0808

Marc & Aimee Cousoulis  
2145 Bedell Rd. Apt B  
Grand Island, NY 14072  
716-773-0391  
716-774-1084  
[cousoulis@research.moore.com](mailto:cousoulis@research.moore.com)

## **BOS MEETINGS**

If you would like to present a program or have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic, please contact Gail Seamans (762-9211 daytime or 762-8040).

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Mar-May10: Mon-Sun. Hamburg, NY Hawkwatch. Watchers are welcome to assist with the 2000 count. Meet at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg during daylight hours when the weather is permitting. The official hawkwatch site is located just inside the Hwy. 75 entrance to the Park. Leader: An official recorder is generally present, if not please record the raptors observed for each hour time interval; note the number of each species, temperature, wind direction and speed, sky conditions and forward these data to Fran Rew.



- April 30: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Tanning Bed store, 0.1 mile east of Main & Transit. We will join Rochester GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay State Park picnic shelter. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS and Mike Zebehazy (662-6987).
- May 7: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot. Spring migrants and local breeders will be the focus. Leader: Bill Watson. (695-2820)
- May 13: Saturday. Hunter's Creek Park. Meet a 7:15 a.m. in the parking area at the southern boundary of Hunter's Creek Park. Directions: From Buffalo travel south on the 400 to the East Aurora exit (route 20), turn left (east) on route 20 and drive for 0.5 miles to Reiter Rd., turn right (south) on Reiter Rd. and travel for 3.0 miles to a T-intersection with Centerline Rd., turn left (east) on Centerline Rd. and travel 0.8 miles to the intersection with Vermont Hill Rd, the parking area is on the left at this intersection; the travel time from the 400 is 10 minutes by car. This field trip includes several miles of hiking over relatively rugged foot-trails with some very steep climbs and descents and stream crossings; the scenery and birding is quite spectacular; plan for 7:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Leaders: Michael Davis (874-2721) and Jack Skalicky (837-2620). Please call if you need additional information.
- May 21: Sunday. May Count. Participants are needed for this years count. Please contact Jim Landau at 941-3869 if interested.

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.

For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Field Trips - Michael A. Davis (874-2721)

\*\*\*\*\*

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Please notify the Treasurer: Lynne Landon, 139 Jackson Street, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$1.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles D. Halvorsen, 212 Main Street, West Seneca, NY 14224. E-mail: ChasHal@AOL.com

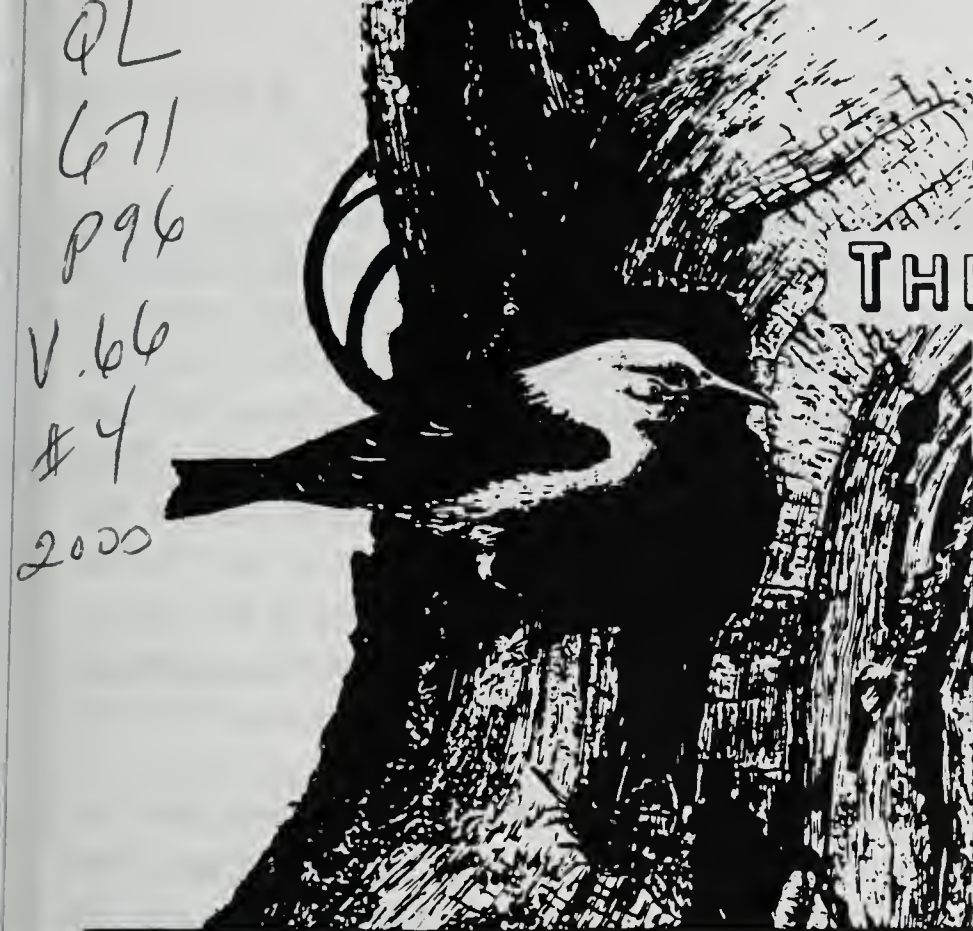
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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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THE

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## THE MONTH: March, 2000

March provided a relatively tranquil ending to the rather mild and open winter of 1999-2000 across the Niagara Frontier. The month was generally mild and dry with just a couple of brief wintry periods. The average temperature of just over 40°F. was over six degrees above normal, making this Buffalo's warmest March in 27 years and its second warmest in the last 50 years. The 68°F. reading on March 9 broke the old record for the day set back in 1878. Precipitation was just over two inches, about a half-inch less than normal; snowfall was normal. Sunshine totaled 41% of the possible, about five points less than usual. Lake Erie lost all of its ice in Buffalo Harbor by March 24, about three weeks early. The lake temperature rose to 39°F. by month's end, actually tying 1998 as the warmest ever in the 74 years of record. Some ice remained in 61 of the 74 years but this was the third consecutive March which ended with open water. Also, for the third year in a row, spring conditions appeared two to three weeks early as March came to an end. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, NY as posted on the Internet).

The earliness of the spring season that commenced during the last week of February continued through all of March. As to be expected, waterfowl, and birds of prey provided most of the noteworthy records listed below. The Greater White-fronted Goose put in a better than average showing and widespread Ruddy Ducks were evident during the first half of the month which continued a trend of being more and more early each spring. Among the more uncommon geese, two or three individuals of the small-sized "Richardson's" race of the Canada Goose were again noted on the Lake Ontario Plain where they were also reported last autumn. A single Brant was unusual as to date and locality; most spring Brant passing through the region are found in May on or close to Lake Ontario. Tundra Swans were much in evidence beginning with the 475 birds in four high-flying flocks over Belmont, Allegany Co. on March 1. A week later swans began to gather on Amity Lake at Belmont, where a maximum of 117 were noted on March 17. By March 20 only 14 birds were left and the last had left by March 24. The other regional concentration area for swans was at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Another interesting large white bird on an inland lake was a Snow Goose that landed on Red House Lake in Allegany State Park. The reader is referred to the unusually high numbers of Ring-necked Ducks and Oldsquaws listed below.



The Hamburg hawkwatch site at Lakeside Memorial Park was in operation on all appropriate weather days. The 1595 individual Turkey Vultures that passed over on March 25 was the maximum single day count for the month. Sixty-four Red-tailed Hawks on the same day was the month's high for that species. Ospreys tended to arrive earlier than usual; the reported March 23 arrival at one nesting site on the Allegheny Reservoir was four days earlier than the date listed in the B.O.S. Date Guide. While the Bald Eagles at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge were attempting to nest, an unusually large number of migrant eagles were reported, an indication of the increasing population of our national bird. The partial albino Red-tailed Hawk reported by Robert Andrie was similar to that pictured in the Peterson Field Guide book, *Hawks*, by William S. Clark. One to two Golden Eagles that wintered in the Allegany State Park region were present at least through the middle of the month. There were several reports of migrants elsewhere in the region, but only one verification report was submitted for this sometimes difficult to identify species. The Buffalo population of wintering Merlins was noted through the middle of the month.

The only well documented report of Sandhill Cranes was by Terry Mosher who carefully described his observation of four birds passing overhead on the south shore of Lake Erie at Irving, Erie Co. There were several additional undocumented reports; attempts to re-establish historic migration routes are being more and more successful in the eastern part of the continent. A Killdeer nest containing eggs was found at Hamburg by Chris Betrus on March 31; this was four days earlier than the earliest date given for New York State in the recently published ATLAS 2000 *Handbook for Workers*. Up to 51 Little Gulls joined the Bonaparte's Gulls on the Lower Niagara River at month's end. An adult Black-headed Gull frequented the same area, where toward the latter part of the month, two adults were being reported.

While Tree Swallows and American Pipits were being reported unusually early, some of the more boreal species, many of which wintered in high numbers farther south, were much in evidence as they passed through on their northward return. These included Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Shrike, Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak. Rough-legged Hawks were widespread; however, the high concentrations once again occurred in the South Dayton area of Cattaraugus County where abundant food supplies prevailed. A few individuals of the often hard-to-find Northern Saw-whet Owl represented the northward return of the unprecedented autumn 1999 movement into the southeastern United States. Redpolls continued to invade feeding stations where they were joined by northward returning Evening Grosbeaks, the latter mostly being in the southern tier counties. A well described and carefully observed Hoary Redpoll at a Colden, Erie Co. feeder, was the only one of several reports to be documented during this "redpoll" winter.

Richard C. Rosche

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Red-throated Loon	19F	1	Vineland, Ont.	Morgante(BOS)
Common Loon	25F	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Morgante et al
"	25F	1	Buffalo Waterfront	Skalicky
"	25F	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
Horned Grebe	4;6	16;108	Yates	D'Anna; Klick
"	5;11	1;4	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Watson
"	10	5	Allegany S.P.	Galas, Watson
"	11	11	Alma Pond	V&M Pitzrick
*Red-necked Grebe	5F	4	Shadigee	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	2	Yates	Klick
D.-crested Cormorant	25F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	31	5	Attica Reservoir	R. Rosche
Turkey Vulture	25	1595	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
*Gr. White-fr. Goose	5	1	Somerset	Yoerg
"	6	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Sowinski, Klick
"	19	2	Hartland	D'Anna et al
"	20	1	Somerset	Klick
"	20	1	Carlton	Klick
"	20	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Chilton
"	28	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas
Snow Goose	4	50 wh.	Shadigee	D'Anna, Potter
"	4;12	2;10	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Klick
"	4;10	1 blue; 1 wh.	Newstead	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	6	1 blue	Somerset	Klick, Sowinski
"	7	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Chilton
"	12	1 blue	Alabama	Galas, Watson
"	18	1	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Canada Goose	5	1 albino	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	1 albino	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	18000	Somerset-Carlton	Klick
* <i>B. c. hutchinsii</i>	10;12	2;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg; Klick
"	19	1	Somerset	Klick
*Brant	6	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Sowinski, Klick
Tundra Swan	1	475	over Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	4;6	281;342	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Klick
"	4	33	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	4	31	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	7	83	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Wojewodzki
"	7	159	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	8	36	Fort Niagara S.P.	Hess
"	21	5	Attica Reservoir	R. Rosche
Wood Duck	4	3	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
Blue-winged Teal	25F	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
*Northern Shoveler	11F	12	Batavia WWTP	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Pintail	5	50	Newstead	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7;11	32;113	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Wojewodzki; Watson
Green-winged Teal	5	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
Canvasback	5	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
"	12;28	2;2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg; Galas
"	12	5	Amity Lake	V&M Pitzrick
"	18	3	Dayton	D'Anna, Potter
Redhead	5	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6;26	4;7	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Galas
"	11	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	18	5	Dayton	D'Anna, Potter
"	25,31	3,3	Tifft N.P.	Skalicky
Ring-necked Duck	7	43	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Wojewodzki
"	11	<u>346</u>	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
"	12;19	<u>450;650</u>	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Klick
"	18	<u>255</u>	Dayton	D'Anna, Potter
Greater Scaup	5	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Lesser Scaup	5	8	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	11	7	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
White-winged Scoter	3	13	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	4	Attica Reservoir	R. Rosche
Oldsquaw	12	15	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Sowinski
"	13	<u>7800</u>	Lewiston	Klick
"	14	6	Dayton	Neveu
"	16	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Hooded Merganser	17	107	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	18	80	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Ruddy Duck	<u>5F</u>	2	Oakfield	Klick
"	<u>5F</u>	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	27	3	Allegany S.P.	Galas, Watson
"	<u>11</u>	47	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	<u>12</u>	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Sowinski, Klick
"	<u>12</u>	7	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg et al
"	18	1	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	12	Dayton	D'Anna
"	31	29	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Chilton
*Osprey	<u>25,27</u>	1,2	Allegany S.P.	Galas
"	<u>26</u>	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas
"	27,31	1,3	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Bald Eagle	3	1	Lewiston	S. O'Donnell
"	4	2 @ nest	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	1	Niagara Falls	S. O'Donnell



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bald Eagle	7-25	9 total	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	10;19;26	2;1;2	Allegany S.P.	Galas; K&J Landau; Yoerg
"	18	2 ad + 5 im	Allegheny Reservoir	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	1 im.	Dayton	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	25	2 im.	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna(BOS)
"	29	1 ad.	Alma Pond	Pitzrick, Ives
*Northern Goshawk	19	1	Ridgeway	Klick
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	8	Fort Niagara S.P.	Hess
"	18	3	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna et al
Red-tailed Hawk	5,12,29	1 part albino	Eden	Andrle
"	25	64	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Rough-legged Hawk	3,14	20,35	S. Dayton	Neveu
"	4	1	Wilson	Morgante, Vallone
"	8	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Hess
"	18	6	Cattaraugus Co.	D'Anna et al
"	19	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	22	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Chilton
"	31	6	Attica	R&D Rosche
Golden Eagle	18	1 subadult	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	18	1 im.	Allegheny Reservoir	D'Anna
"	20	1	Carlton	Klick
Merlin	4,6,13,21	1,2,1,1	Buffalo(UB)	Yoerg
American Coot	28	74	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas
*Sandhill Crane	25	4	Irving	Mosher
Killdeer	31	4 eggs	Hamburg	Andrle, Betrus
*Purple Sandpiper	23	2	Niagara Falls	Yoerg
*Common Snipe	20F,24	9,14	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	25	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
American Woodcock	6	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Little Gull	5	13	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	12	26	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	13;27	31;51	Lewiston	Klick; Galas et al
Black-headed Gull	26	1	Queenston, Ont.	Klick
Bonaparte's Gull	11	2	Amity Lake	V&M Pitzrick
"	17	900	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	25	1	Allegany S.P.	Galas, Rising
Iceland Gull	3	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
Glaucous Gull	10	1	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby
*Barred Owl	26	1	McCarty Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson
Long-eared Owl	15	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Potter
Short-eared Owl	7	2	Wheatfield	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	6	S. Dayton	Neveu
"	30	1	Niag. Falls Airport	Morgante

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Nor. Saw-whet Owl	6	1	Lockport	Watson, Rosenberg
"	7,22	1,1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
"	15,22	1,1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Potter
"	19	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Potter et al
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	28F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas
Pileated Woodpecker	25	1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna(BOS)
"	25	1	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
*Eastern Phoebe	17F	1	Evangola S.P.	Neveu
"	23	1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Shrike	2,10,15	1,1,1	Amherst	Chilton
"	3	1	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
"	4	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Holmes
"	5	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	12	1	Shelby	Klick
"	18	1	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	19	1	Somerset	Klick, Sowinski
"	19	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	21	1	Wethersfield	R. Rosche
Common Raven	11	1	Amity	V&M Pitzrick
"	18	1	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	28	2	Alfred	Brooks
Horned Lark				
* <i>E. a. praticola</i>	12	160	Oakfield	Klick
*Tree Swallow	8F	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Skalicky
"	9,17	2,2	Amity	Pitzrick
"	20	2	Ripley	Neveu
"	22	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Chilton
Carolina Wren	16	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
*Winter Wren	27F	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
Golden-cr. Kinglet	25F	4	Hamburg	Skalicky
Northern Mockingbird	6,30	1,1	Amherst	Chilton
*American Pipit	19	1	Vineland, Ont.	Morgante (BOS)
"	23	20	Wilson	Potter
"	25	2	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Yellow-r. Warbler	10	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Jacklin
*Eastern Towhee	18	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Chipping Sparrow	24F	2	Colden	K&J Landau
*Field Sparrow	12F	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	26	1	Wheatfield	D'Anna, Potter
Savannah Sparrow	23F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Fox Sparrow	10F;18;26	1;2;3	Allegany S.P.	Galas; D'Anna; Yoerg
"	27	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
"	27	2	Hamburg	Yoerg, Klick
Swamp Sparrow	23F	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lapland Longspur	12	90	Oakfield	Klick
"	25	3	Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
Snow Bunting	12	50	Oakfield	Klick
"	25	2	Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
Eastern Meadowlark	5	1	Clarence	Yoerg, Henderson
Rusty Blackbird	6	1	Tonawanda	M&S Galas
"	10	150	Iroquois N.W.R.	Sowinski
"	11	100	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
Purple Finch	2-31	3	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	12-31	8	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	18	2	Allegany S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Red Crossbill	23	2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
Common Redpoll	1-14	8 max.	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	1-31	100 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	4	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
"	6	65	Somerset	Klick, Sowinski
"	8-26	40 max.	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	8	2	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	14	6	S. Dayton	Neveu
"	18,26	12,1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	19	6	Pendleton	Klick, Sowinski
"	23	5	Arcade	R&D Rosche
Hoary Redpoll	21	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
*Pine Siskin	4	4	Colden(f)	K&J Landau
"	17	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	19	2	Chestnut Ridge Park	Skalicky, Davis
"	20	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	30,31	3	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
Evening Grosbeak	1-31	21 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	10,25	15,9	Allegany S.P.	Galas et al
"	19	10	Alfred	Brooks
"	20-31	21 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	23	12	Arcade	R&D Rosche

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this year .....	123
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue .....	24
Total for year .....	147

### Statisticians' Note

If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for the decision.

## **BOS Field Trip to Lake Ontario Shore in Ontario - 3/19/00**

There was discussion during some BOS meetings in Fall 1999 regarding the need for new field trips to different locations. The first one that came to my mind was a trip to the Ontario shoreline of Lake Ontario. For three consecutive years around March 20 I found King Eiders in Vineland, Ontario (which is west of St. Catharines and just at the border of the BOS study area). I took the risk that I could find them 4 years in a row and signed on to lead the field trip. Eleven birders met me in Lewiston. We crossed into Canada and headed north at the Vineland exit from the QEW.

There were large flocks of White-winged Scoters in the several stops we made along the lake and a close look at a Red-throated Loon was very worthwhile. However, I failed to locate a King Eider for the group and I would have to go to "Plan B". We went west to Stoney Creek and exited the QEW at Fruitland Road. At the end of the road we saw a very large flock of scoters that were close to shore. There were several Black and Surf Scoters, including adult males of both, among the White-wingeds. This was a great sight for all to see them so well. We stopped at Gray's Road (a few streets to the west) to look for a pair of Harlequin Ducks that had been seen during the week. No luck on the harleys but we had even better looks at some pure flocks of Surf Scoters. "Plan B" took us to LaSalle Marina on the north side of Burlington Bay to find a female King Eider that had been present most of the winter. This bird was very close to shore and we had some amazing looks at this attractive bird. At the same location there were Mute, Tundra, and Trumpeter Swans hanging close to shore in a mixed group. It was a great lesson in telling the swan species apart. A brief stop at the Grimsby Hawk Watch did not turn up many raptors. All in all it was a successful trip and some participants were already calling for a repeat trip next year.

Mike Morgante

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**



## BOS MEETINGS

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Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

## FIELD TRIPS

- June 9: Friday not Saturday. Whip-poor-will trip and Chinese dinner. Meet at 6 p.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will eat at the Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colbourne, Ontario. This is at 182 West Street, on the west bank of the Welland Canal. From the restaurant we will then travel to Wilson Road which is 4 miles west of town, off of Hwy. 3. Reservations are appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- July 23: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Meet at 8 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you wish to meet on the Canadian side, contact the leader.
- Aug 20: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Meet at 8 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you wish to meet on the Canadian side, contact the leader.

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.  
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Field Trips - Michael A. Davis (874-2721)

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271 and follow the instructions.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 or E-mail: Morgmmm@AOL.com.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

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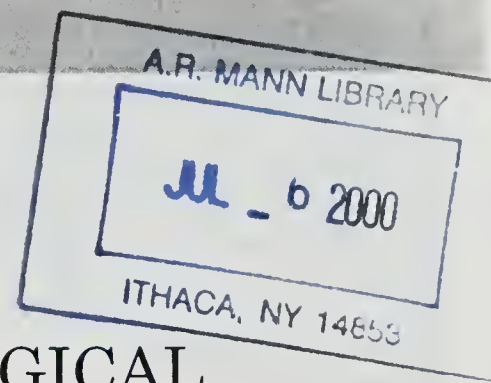
# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: APRIL

by Bill Watson

April was a cool, wet and cloudy month. The average temperature was a cool 44.2 °F (1.2 °F below normal). It was the first month since October with below average temperatures. Total precipitation was 4.07 inches (1.20 inches above normal) making April the first wet month since September. April was extremely cloudy with only 38% possible sun.

The cool wet weather did dampen the migration to some degree. Only eight species of warblers were found. In the last twenty years there have only been three Aprils with less. On the bright side Brendan Klick found the rare and colorful subspecies of Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea* or Eastern "Yellow" Palm Warbler. This subspecies has been an April noteworthy record only one other time since one was seen at Braddock Bay on April 24, 1954. Seven species arrived early enough to require written verification. These early

arrivals were Virginia Rail April 5, Chimney Swift April 15, Blue-headed Vireo April 16, Northern Waterthrush April 22 and three species (see below) on the April 9 count (Note that six of the seven early arrivals occurred on or before April 16). There were no late departures.

If the cool wet weather slowed down migration, why were there seven early arrivals and no late

departures? The reason, according to the Verification Date Guide, is that there are 65 species with arrival dates in April (May has only 34) but only four with departure dates. The expected arrivals out-number departures in April by more than sixteen to one. So fair weather or foul, April is a month for early arrivals, and, as we shall see, many exceptionally rare fowl.

Most of early April (12 of the first 18 days) had peak winds from the SW; this fact and a remarkably warm March may be partly responsible for the numerous *early* species records on the BOS April 9<sup>th</sup> Count: a Green Heron (Betsy Potter), a Palm Warbler (Brian Ahara and Kayo Roy), and a Merlin (Richard Sowinski). Bob Sundell found a Forster's Tern, very rare in spring, at the mouth of Bemus Creek on Chautauqua Lake. Based on a twenty year period from 1979 to 1999, April Count 2000 recorded nineteen new maximum records and four new minimums. Most notable among the new maximums were Ruddy Duck, Caspian Tern, and Black Scoter. The Tufted Titmouse maximum suggests that their population is still increasing in our area. However, some of the 19 new maximums are probably the result of improved coverage. The numerous April Count volunteers, compilers, and coordinators should be congratulated.

An unusually warm February and March resulted in extraordinarily early nesting records at the heron rookery on Motor Island in April. On April 18 one and possibly more Great Blue Heron nestlings were observed on a Motor Island nest. This is more than a month earlier than the earliest nestling Great Blue Heron record in the ATLAS 2000 "Handbook for Workers". This is the same nest that had an adult Great Blue Heron sitting on it (but

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possibly not on eggs) on February 29. Great Egrets, that usually don't arrive at the rookery until mid-April, arrived very early on April 1 (no fooling) and started incubating between April 13 and 18, again more than a month before the May 23 early record date for Great Egret eggs!

April as usual brought many rare birds to our region. The Eared Grebe recorded by Mike Morgante at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on April 29 is only the third April noteworthy record in BOS history. It was found with a Red-throated Loon and a Common Loon. The Snowy Egret that was observed on Motor Island April 26-28, was also seen by Sue

and Tom O'Donnell at Beaver Island on April 27. There have been only four other April noteworthy records of Snowy Egret in our area, and all of these records have occurred since 1977.

Sandhill Cranes are also increasing and were identified by many observers near the month's end. Four were observed at the Hamburg Hawkwatch, four in Alabama Township with gray plumage and yellow leg bands, two at the Tonawanda W.M.A. with tan brown stained plumage and no leg bands, and one at Iroquois alone. These observations suggest that there were at least eight and possibly nine different Sandhill Cranes. The four with the yellow bands and black numbers 350, 352, 358, and 366 (as recorded by Gail Seamans) have an interesting history. According to Sonny Knowlton

(NYSDEC) these birds are part of an experiment to investigate techniques to establish Sandhill Cranes in eastern North America. Last year these young cranes were brought to Iroquois NWR from the Patuxent Research Center in Maryland. At Iroquois NWR they were released and almost immediately left. They were next seen in Sullivan County, New York, at Neversink on August 6, 1999, and at Camp DeBruce on August 11, 1999. Then on September 27, 1999, they reappeared 25 miles southeast of Rochester in Canandaigua, New York. Then they returned to Iroquois April 20-23, 2000 only to fly north to Blackstock, Ontario (about 35 miles northeast of Toronto) where they were seen near the end of this May according to Bill Lishman of Operation Migration.

A Black-headed Gull was seen on the 6th by Peter Yeorg at Queenston, and on April 18 by Gordon Bellerby at Niagara-on-the-Lake. These were the first April records of Black-headed Gull in five years. April is becoming the month for buntings. In April 1999 New York State's first Lazuli Bunting was found in Bethany Township and this year on April 19 Aron Kehlenbeck found a breeding plumage male Lark Bunting on the Lamb farm in the town of Alabama. This beautiful bird was last seen in the BOS study area on May 13, 1967, when one left, after staying for nearly five and a half months at the Burtons' feeding station in Belmont. This is only the second time that this visitor from the western dry plains and prairies has graced us with its presence. Another excellent find was a Yellow-headed Blackbird on Amity Lake Road in Belmont. Vivian Pitzrick described this bird as "slightly larger than the Red-wing Blackbirds with it" and the plumage was "all black except for a patch of white in the wings and the bright yellow covering the head, neck, and well down the breast." I thank the National Weather Service, Sonny Knowlton, Bill Lishman, David Suggs and Betsy Potter for helping prepare this report.

## SUMMER CALENDAR

**July 23: Canadian shore of Lake Erie** for shore-birds. Meet at 8 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you want to meet on the Canadian side contact the leader.

**Aug 20: Canadian shore of Lake Erie** for shore-birds. Meet at 8 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you want to meet on the Canadian side contact the leader.

**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	15	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	8	Yates	Watson, Klick
"	29	1	<u>Batavia WWTP</u>	Morgante
"	30	1	<u>Batavia WWTP</u>	Galas, Klick, Watson
Common Loon	5,23	8,5	Attica Reservoir	R&D Rosche
Horned Grebe	2	6	Alfred	Brooks
"	30	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Red-necked Grebe	15	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	8	Yates	Morgante
"	23	4	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
"	24	3	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Chilton, Yoerg
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Galas, Watson, Klick
D.-crested Cormorant	1,15	17,114	Reef Lighthouse, Buffalo	Watson
"	2	3	Alfred	Brooks
"	6	4	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	23	3	Wethersfield	R&D Rosche
"	30	233	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
*American Bittern	7F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Chilton
"	13	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	22;29	1;4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas; Morgante
"	29	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle et al
Great Blue Heron	18	62 ad., 1 yg.	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
*Great Egret	1F,18,28	1,9,11	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	22	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	23	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna
* <u>Snowy Egret</u>	26-28	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson, et al.
"	27	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Green Heron	22	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1,28	3,82	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	2	20	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg
Snow Goose	16L	1	Otto	D'Anna, Potter
Mute Swan	16	1	Yates	Klick, Watson
"	16	1	Bird Swamp	R&D Rosche
Tundra Swan	24	1	Clarence	Galas, Rising
"	30	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson et al
Green-winged Teal	29	<u>131</u>	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson, Galas
Canvasback	11	3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	23	10	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Redhead	3;29	2;5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Morgante
"	23	5	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Kehlenbeck
Ring-necked Duck	14	<u>289</u>	Iroquois NWR & vic.	Galas, Watson
Lesser Scaup	24	207	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
"	29	100	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Surf Scoter	2F	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Red-br. Merganser	7	2500	Sheridan	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	8	25	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	16,23	25,41	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	19	63	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Chilton
"	23	80	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
"	24	2	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
"	30	76	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Osprey	1;14	2;3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kehlenbeck; Galas
"	2	2	Allegany S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	7,22	1,1	Bennington	Seamans
"	23;30	1;2	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck; Klick
"	23	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	24;28	22;23	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew; Andrie et al
"	25	1	Beaver Meadow N.S.	Kunze
"	29	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	29	1	Newstead	Galas, Watson
Bald Eagle	4,23	1,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kehlenbeck
"	14,15,27,29	1,1,1,1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	29	1 ad.	Tifft N.P.	Galas et al
"	29	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Galas, Watson
Northern Goshawk	14	1	<u>Hamburg Hawkwatch</u>	Rew et al
"	26	1	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc
*Broad-winged Hawk	14F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	14F,24	7,1697	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Rough-legged Hawk	5	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg
"	13	1	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
"	14,23	3,1	Attica	R&D Rosche
"	23	1	Royalton	D'Anna
"	23	1	Wheatfield	D'Anna
"	30	1	Pike	Fox
Merlin	21	1	Como Park	Morgante
"	22	1	Losson Park	Morgante
"	24	1	Hamburg	Klick
"	27,30	1,1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
*Virginia Rail	<u>5F</u>	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg
"	13	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Sora	28F	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas, Watson
*Common Moorhen	23F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Kehlenbeck
American Coot	14	229	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas et al
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	22	4	Alabama	Kehlenbeck; Seamans
"	23	4 banded	Alabama	D'Anna
"	27	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas, Watson



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew, et al.
"	29	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Jones; Stiner
*Greater Yellowlegs	3F	1	Yates	Klick, Sowinski
"	3F	2	Albion	Klick, Sowinski
"	5;29	2;40	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg; Galas
*Lesser Yellowlegs	15;16	2;16	Yates	D'Anna; Watson
*Solitary Sandpiper	24F	1	Como Park	Morgante
*Spotted Sandpiper	22F	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	25	1	Folsomdale	R&D Rosche
Common Snipe	16	15	Yates	Klick, Watson
"	31	4	Tillman W.M.A.	Skalicky, Davis
Little Gull	6	10	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg
"	13	3	Lewiston	Galas, Watson
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	6	1	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg
"	18	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Bonaparte's Gull	11,14	5,23	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	23	2	Attica	R&D Rosche
Iceland Gull	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1	1	Goat Island	Skalicky
"	6	1	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg
"	10	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick, Sowinski
"	12	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Glaucous Gull	1,5	3,5	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson et al
"	2	1	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg
"	15	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Watson
*Caspian Tern	8F	33	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	10	2	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Sowinski
"	10	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick, Sowinski
"	30	39	Wilson	Klick
*Common Tern	8F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	14	1	Buffalo Harbor	Mueller
*Black Tern	29F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	29F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Galas
Long-eared Owl	3,14	1,1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
Short-eared Owl	19	1	Eden	Andrle
"	23	3	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	7	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
*Chimney Swift	<u>15F</u>	1	Tonawanda	Galas et al
"	23	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	2	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Jones
Pileated Woodpecker	16	2	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Klick, Watson
*Least Flycatcher	30F	1	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
*Gr. Crested Flycatcher	30F	1	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
Northern Shrike	4	1	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
Shrike species	5	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg
*Blue-headed Vireo	<u>16F</u>	2	East Otto S.F.	D'Anna, et al.
"	22	4	Portville	LeBlanc

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	23	1	Clarence	Morgante
"	23	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna et al
Common Raven	1	1	Ward	Brooks
"	2,12	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	16	2	Portville	LeBlanc
"	17	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
*Purple Martin	15;26	1;4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Galas et al
"	26	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
*N. Rough-w. Swallow	14	1	Como Park	Morgante
"	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
"	15	10	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
*Bank Swallow	27F	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas, Watson
*Barn Swallow	7F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Chilton
"	13	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Cliff Swallow	26F	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Carolina Wren	17	1	Point Gratiot	Klick
"	27	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
*House Wren	19F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	23	1	Clarence	Morgante
*Marsh Wren	27F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas, Watson
"	30	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
*Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	4	Tifft N.P.	Klick
*Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	29F	5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Northern Mockingbird	16	1	Albion	Watson, Klick
"	16	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Skalicky, Davis
"	23	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	29	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	S&M Galas
*Brown Thrasher	14	1	Wales	O. Rosche
"	15	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	15	1	Bethany	Fox
*Yellow Warbler	25F	1	Snyder	Klick
"	25F	1	Randolph	LeBlanc
Yellow-r. Warbler	7	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
*Blk.-thr. Green Warb.	22F	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	22F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Skalicky, Davis
Pine Warbler	15F	2	Lake Erie S.P.	Moshers et al
"	17	1,1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	23	5	Clarence	Morgante
Palm Warbler	25	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
* <i>D. p. hypochrysea</i>	28	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
*Black-and-white Warb.	29F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	29F	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Northern Waterthrush	22F,23	2,2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	26	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
*Louisiana Waterthrush	22F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	22F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Skalicky, Davis
"	30	2	Bennington	Fox
Eastern Towhee	2;15	1;3	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna; Morgante



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	1	Buffalo	Mueller
Amer. Tree Sparrow	29L	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	29L	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson et al
Chipping Sparrow	3F	1	Pendleton	Klick, Sowinski
Field Sparrow	3	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Vesper Sparrow	12,13	3	Hamburg	Galas et al
"	16	1	East Otto	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	1	Yates	Watson, Klick
"	16	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Watson, Klick
"	21-23	1	Alabama	D'Anna et al
"	21	8	Pomfret	Mosher
<u>*Lark Bunting</u>	19	1	Alabama	Kehlenbeck
"	21	1	Alabama	Seamans, D'Anna, Morgante
"	22	1	Alabama	Galas et al
"	23	1	Alabama	Klick et al
"	27	1	Alabama	Watson, Jones
"	29	1	Alabama	Sowinski
"	30	1	Alabama	Seamans
Fox Sparrow	2-23	16 reports	throughout WNY	many observers
White-cr. Sparrow	21F	1	Alabama	Morgante; O'Donnells et al
"	30	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Snow Bunting	5	1	Oakfield	Kehlenbeck
*Bobolink	29F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
<u>*Yellow-h. Blackbird</u>	11,12	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Purple Finch	1-30	7 reports	throughout WNY	many observers
Common Redpoll	1,15	2	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	3,4	1,1	Depew	Barber
Pine Siskin	1-30	3 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	22	4	Portville	LeBlanc
"	23	1	Bennington	R&D Rosche
"	27	1	Williamsville	Yoerg
"	29	3	Warsaw	Kunze
Evening Grosbeak	1-30	30max	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	2-30	16 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	2	35	Farmersville	Fox
"	7	42	Ward	Brooks
"	15-30	35 max.	Warsaw	Kunze
"	16	15	Franklinville	R&D Rosche
"	16	14	Hanging Bog WMA	R&D Rosche
"	22	30	Portville	LeBlanc

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:** **147**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue including the April Count:** **42**

**Total for the year 2000:** **189**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

## Federation Waterfowl Count: January, 2000

by Bill Burch

This report gives the results of the 46th Annual Waterfowl Count for Region 1 of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The statewide results will be published in the Federation Journal, *The Kingbird*, at a later date. The 2000 count dates were January 15 through 23 with January 16 as the target date. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Species	No.	Comments
Pied-billed Grebe	8	average (E,G,I)
Double-cr Cormorant	41	high (D,I)
Canada Goose	4169	high
Tundra Swan	139	2nd to 144(1999) (G)
Wood Duck	5	average (J,P)
Gadwall	47	variable (E,F)
American Wigeon	35	variable (F)
Am. Black Duck	122	low
Mallard	6897	high
Canvasback	7420	high (E,F,mainly G)
Redhead	445	record high
Ring-necked Duck	25	variable (F)
Greater Scaup	11,965	very high
Lesser Scaup	61	variable (B,E)
White-winged Scoter	1591	record high, variable
Black Scoter	1	unusual (D)
Oldsquaw	3021	average
Bufflehead	833	high
Common Goldeneye	2065	average
Hooded Merganser	29	average
Common Merganser	4034	average
Red-br Merganser	264	average (F,I)
Ruddy Duck	2	variable (G,I)
American Coot	89	average (G,I)
Unknown	299	(F,H)
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>24</b>	average
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>43,607</b>	third highest count.

**DISCUSSION:** During the January 15-23 count period there were 2 to 6 inches of snow on the ground along the Niagara River, frequent snow flurries, and variable temperatures ranging from the mid-twenties for five days and 6 to 8 °F on four of the count days. Wind of 10 to 24 mph was recorded. Despite the crisp weather all sections but one were covered. In that one (Batavia) the count would have been low because most inland ponds were frozen. The surface of Lake Ontario was unfrozen but

there was ice for about 100 yards from the shoreline. Likewise, Lake Erie was open and the lake water temperature was 33 °F the day after the count. Rafts of ducks were seen on Lake Erie far beyond the shore.

At the request of Bryan Swift, Waterfowl Specialist of the NYSDEC, this year we expanded the upstream coverage of the Canadian side of the Niagara River (Sect. F) to include the two miles between the Peace Bridge and the ice boom at the outlet of Lake Erie. However, the large flocks found last year were absent and were probably further out on the lake. Nevertheless the 3336 waterfowl observed in this newly-added stretch accounted for 43% of all those found (7664) in the 19 miles of Section F.

The Greater Scaup were concentrated in the open water in and near The Buffalo Harbor (about 9900) and across the Niagara River above the Peace Bridge (1650). The Canvasbacks were in an approximately one mile band that extended around the upstream end of Grand Island (Beaver Island Park) in the slowly moving water. Oldsquaws, as usual, were concentrated at the confluence of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

The White-winged Scoter count of 1591 was extraordinary; their numbers have varied from none to a previous high of 1212 in 1988. This year the birds were located in a few large flocks. Peter Yoerg (Sect.B) spotted 608 flying west over Lake Ontario during his half-hour lunch at a lakeside park. Four days earlier Jerry Farrell (Sect.A) counted 945 from the Lake Ontario shore in a 2.5 hr count time. One wonders what a few full-day counts would have tallied.

The duck hunting season was open from Dec. 26 to Jan. 9 and, as expected, waterfowl were scattered on the upper Niagara River during this time. A quick count of the river near Grand Island three days after hunting ended showed only 550 ducks, 350 Canada Geese and no swans. Fortunately the number increased rapidly so that by Jan 21 the Island count (Sect. G) was 12,495.

The Tundra Swans are over-wintering on the upper Niagara again as in 1999. They are at Beaver Island State Park, or a mile to the east between Strawberry and Motor Islands; these are shallow, slow moving areas of the river. Swans numbered 108 on Dec 15. They fled during hunting season, but most returned on Jan 18 (9 days after hunting closed) when 106 were counted. The number reached 139 on Jan 21.

Bald Eagle sightings during the waterfowl count were requested. Six Bald Eagles were sighted plus the two resident birds at Iroquois NWR. The number observed



were: Sect. K: one adult, one immature, one sub-adult on Jan 16. Sect. B: two adults on Jan 23. Sect. J: one adult in early Jan.

### **Territories Covered and Party Leaders**

A - Lake Ontario, Point Breeze to Olcott.	J. Farrell
B - Lake Ontario, Olcott to Fort Niagara.	P. Yoerg
C - Fort Niagara to base of Falls, U.S. side	M Davis
D - NOTL to base of Falls, Can. Side.	M. Zebehazy
E - Buffalo Harbor to Goat Is., New York.	J. Thill
F - Lake Erie to Horseshoe Falls, Can. Side	D. Roberson
G - Grand Island, NY, (in Niagara River)	D. Brasure
H - Lake Erie; Buffalo south harbor to Silver Crk	D. Suggs
I - Lake Erie; Silver Creek to PA state line	F. Rew
J - Jamestown and Chautauqua Lake	R. Sundell
K - Olean and Salamanca	T. Baird
L - Allegany County	D. Burton
M - Batavia	(not censused)
N - Oak orchard and Tonawanda W.M.A.	E. Ratajczak
O - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge	E. Ratajczak
P - Towns of Amherst, Clarence, Cheektowaga	W. Burch
Q - Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery	B. Klick
R - S. Park Lake, Caze. Park & Crk, W. Seneca	W. Burch

abbreviation: Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL)

**Participants:** The compiler extends his thanks to the BOS members and friends who took part in this annual count: Bob Andrie, Tim Baird, Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Olive Burch, Doris Burton, Ken Cohen, David Cooper, Mike Davis, Steve Eaton, Jerry Farrell, Doug Happ, Barbara Henderson, Audrey Horbett, M. Jordan, Brendan Klick, Mike Morgante, Ed Ratajczak, Frances Rew, Don Roberson, Vicki Rothman, Carmen Scutella, Bill Seleen, Jack Skalicky, Dave Suggs, Debbie Suggs, Bob Sundell, Joe Thill, Larry Wilson, Peter Yoerg, and Mike Zebehazy.

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### **Notes from the Editorial Staff**

*by Jack Skalicky*

As you are quite aware, *The Prothonotary* has undergone a few format changes to improve its readability and appearance. The new (actually quite old) sketch of a Prothonotary warbler on the cover page was taken from the January, 1937 issue of *The Prothonotary*. Each issue is now produced in entirety as an electronic edition which should translate to a fairly regular layout for future issues. If you feel additional formatting changes should be implemented please contact us and we will discuss your ideas.

Aside from these cosmetic changes a more challenging task will be to assemble well-written, interesting, and timely articles for future issues. Therefore, I am asking the individuals of the BOS membership to consider what special expertise they may have that could be translated to a Prothonotary contribution. Possible article topics are bird identification challenges and techniques, species status reviews, field trip reports from personal experience or BOS sponsored field trips, bird migration, breeding birds, bird song, reviews of the technical literature, bird-finding of our region (or elsewhere), and the history of the BOS. Of course, sketches, illustrations, and photographs will greatly enhance the written articles. All forms of artwork will also be greatly appreciated. I'm sure that all BOS birders have information under their belt that may be enjoyed by the membership.

We would prefer that all articles be submitted in an electronic format. If possible, please submit all articles in Microsoft Word rich text format (.rtf) on a floppy diskette to the editor or via an email attachment to skalicky@acsu.buffalo.edu. If you do not have access to a computer, please submit double-spaced, typed articles. These can be scanned to an electronic format. Technical papers will be peer-reviewed by two experts prior to final acceptance and publication.

On another topic, publishing *The Prothonotary* is a time-consuming task and we could still use a person(s) to help with some aspects of the publication. In particular we are seeking a volunteer to prepare *The Prothonotary* for bulk mailing; this task will require about 4-5 hours each month. If interested, contact Jack Skalicky or Gerry Rising.

---

### **New Members**

Victoria Rothman, 1073 Youngstown Wilson Rd. Youngstown, NY 14174, (716) 745-1297

David A. Whitt, 702 Ridge Rd., Lewiston, NY 14092, (716) 754-1678.

### **Address Changes**

Alan Baczkiewicz, 11540 Coleman Rd., Elma, NY 14059-9768

Marc & Aimee Cousoulis, 55 Independence Ln. Grand Island, NY 14072-1872

David S. Newberger, 50 Greencastle Lane, Williamsville, NY 14221

Anne Vogt, 360 Center St. East Aurora NY 14052-2245

Larry Wilson, 9705 S. River Rd. P.O. Box 277, Houghton, NY 14744

# Report of the 2000 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 9, 2000

Compilers: Ed Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, Terry Yonker

**Weather Synopsis:** On the day prior to the count a strong low pressure area and vigorous cold front passed through the count area. Passage of the system set off light snow over much of western New York. Skies generally cleared by morning while brisk winds backed from the north northwest to west northwest by midday of the count. A shallow trough of low pressure associated with an Alberta Clipper low pressure system located over Lake Superior moved through Buffalo at approximated 3:00 pm resulting in raised dew points and humidity, cloudiness and a further wind shift to the west southwest. Light snow fell over much of the area around dusk.

## Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:43 AM

Sunset: 7:51 PM

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRES-SURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am		29	21	29.86	NNW 9	
3:00 am		29	16	28.85	NNW 11	
6:00 am		26	15	29.85	NW 12	
9:00 am		30	14	29.86	NW 19	
12:00 pm		36	17	29.83	WNW 18	
3:00 pm		42	22	29.78	WSW 21	Passage of low pressure trough
6:00 pm	Light Snow	35	30	29.81	WSW 17	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

### Loons - Ducks

Red-throated Loon	2	(4)	Blue-winged Teal	173	
Common Loon	87		Northern Shoveler	170	
Pied-billed Grebe	214		Northern Pintail	116	
Horned Grebe	244		Green-winged Teal	232	
Red-necked Grebe	1	(1,13)	Canvasback	222	
Double-crested Cormorant	413		Redhead	23	
American Bittern	1	(4)	Ring-necked Duck	1138	
Great Blue Heron	287		Greater Scaup	980	
Great Egret	8		Lesser Scaup	674	
<b>Green Heron</b>	*F	1 (3)	unspecified scaup	7,199	
Blk.-crowned Night-Heron	133		White-winged Scoter	88	
Turkey Vulture	398		Black Scoter	32	(27)
Snow Goose	1	(4)	unspecified scoters	1	(8)
Canada Goose	30,793		Oldsquaw	436	
Mute Swan	4	(3,16)	Bufflehead	4,168	
Tundra Swan	52		Common Goldeneye	71	
Wood Duck	254		Hooded Merganser	219	
Gadwall	141		Common Merganser	412	
American Widgeon	221		Red-breasted Merganser	5,675	
American Black Duck	87		Ruddy Duck	947	
Mallard	1,317		unspecified waterfowl	12	(11)



## Raptors - Coots

Osprey	17		Red-shouldered Hawk	9
Bald Eagle	5	(10,24,28)	Red-tailed Hawk	285
Northern Harrier	76		Rough-legged Hawk	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	35		unspecified buteos	3 (18)
Cooper's Hawk	11		American Kestrel	234
unspecified accipiters	2	(13,20)	Merlin	1 (9)
Ring-necked Pheasant	20		Wild Turkey	207
Ruffed Grouse	11		American Coot	1334

## Plovers - Terns

Killdeer	320		Herring Gull	6,219
Greater Yellowlegs	85		Iceland Gull	4 (2,3)
Lesser Yellowlegs	*F 2	(4)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	3 (3,7,8)
Common Snipe	53		Glaucous Gull	1 (11)
American Woodcock	16		Great Black-backed Gull	421
Little Gull	18	(2,3)	Caspian Tern	107
Bonaparte's Gull	37,684		Common Tern	5 (4,8,20)
Ring-billed Gull	37,658		<b>Forster's Tern</b>	*F 1 (21)

## Doves - Swallows

Rock Dove	1,549		Pileated Woodpecker	16
Mourning Dove	1,134		Eastern Phoebe	214
Great Horned Owl	12		Northern Shrike	5
Barred Owl	4	(14,20,25)	Blue Jay	625
Long-eared Owl	1	(3)	American Crow	3,779
Short-eared Owl	2	(3)	Common Raven	8
Belted Kingfisher	73		Horned Lark	83
Red-bellied Woodpecker	51		Purple Martin	*F 31
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	44		Tree Swallow	3,216
Downy Woodpecker	335		N.Rough-winged Swallow	*F 35 (8,20)
Hairy Woodpecker	84		Barn Swallow	73
Northern Flicker	372			

## Tits - Waxwings

Black-capped Chickadee	1,434		Eastern Bluebird	104
Tufted Titmouse	128		Hermit Thrush	25
Red-breasted Nuthatch	89		American Robin	7,541
White-breasted Nuthatch	255		Northern Mockingbird	15
Brown Creeper	66		Brown Thrasher	*F 2 (28)
Carolina Wren	9		European Starling	10,428
Winter Wren	31		American Pi[pit	469 (3,13,23)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	634		Cedar Waxwing	270
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7			

Yellow-rumped Warbler	12	Lapland Longspur	2 (28)
<b>Palm Warbler</b> *F	1 (2)	Northern Cardinal	549
Eastern Towhee	24	Red-winged Blackbird	4,578
American Tree Sparrow	247	Eastern Meadowlark	116
Chipping Sparrow	98	Rusty Blackbird	594
Field Sparrow	21	Common Grackle	3,452
Vesper Sparrow *F	18	Brown-headed Cowbird	1,011
Savannah Sparrow	18	Purple Finch	173
Fox Sparrow	42	House Finch	638
Song Sparrow	1,166	Common Redpoll	45
Swamp Sparrow	17	Pine Siskin	11
White-throated Sparrow	39	American Goldfinch	816
White-crowned Sparrow	12	Evening Grosbeak	405
Dark-eyed Junco	3,567	House Sparrow	1,379

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total Species Observed – 137

Total Individual Birds Observed – 194,816

Number of Observers – 256

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: Associated charts, available from the Editor or Michael Hamilton, compares this year's records with those for 1991-2000 and those for 1979-2000. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2000 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

INDIVIDUAL SPECIES – Green Heron – 1. Fifth record since 1979, second in past decade.

Forster's Tern – 1. Second record since 1979.

Palm Warbler – 1. First record since 1979.

Number of maximum records exceeds number of minimum records 5 to 1 for both periods.

OBSERVERS: (Section compilers are printed in bold face.)

- Section 1: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Jennifer Norris, Jim Wojewodzki, Terry Yonker
- Section 2: Brian Ahara, Gordon Bellerby, Paul Benham, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Maggie Smiley, Katherine Stoltz
- Section 3: William Broderick, Ken Cohen, **Willie D'Anna**, Jerald Farrell, Susan Farrell, Betsy Potter
- Section 4: Deborah Hovland, Mark Schlacter, **William Watson**
- Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Peggy Christensen, Richard Christensen, Morgan Jones, **Brendan Klick**, Marion Smith
- Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple
- Section 7: John Filor, Edward Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, **Robert Wagner**
- Section 8: Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**
- Section 9: not covered except Merlin record (Sowinski)
- Section 10: Edward Crohn, **Donald Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte
- Section 11: **Michael Davis**, Mike Galas, Gerry Rising, Jack Skalicky
- Section 12: Alan Baczkiwicz, **Ann Bauer**, Marion Bee, Paul Fuhrmann, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Marlene Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Jr., Donna Wieand
- Section 13: Douglas Beattie, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Marie Johnson, Aron Kehlenbeck Sr., Aron Kehlenbeck Jr., Zeke Kehlenbeck, Dorothy Rosche, Richard Rosche, Dolores Seamans, **Gail Seamans**, Donald Thureau
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- Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**, Victoria Onorato, Ed Ratajczak, Art Rosche, Olga Rosche
- Section 16: Thomas Connare, Marian Dornhaffer, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
- Section 17: Tom Koopman, **Bert Schweigert**
- Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Barbara Henderson, James Landau, Karen Landau, Peter Yoerg



- Section 19: Faye Clancy, Barbara Cronk, **Alice Evans**, Delores Gadefski, Lyle Hotchkiss, Will Kennedy, Roxie Lates, Dora Lilly, Phil Main, Bernard Mills, Cindy Moyles, Roger Nicholson, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Maxine Schembri, Elaine Smith, Marion Smith, Max Smith, Jay Wilson, Mrs. Jay Wilson, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
- Section 20: Allan Benton, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Terry Mahoney, Richard Miga, Terry Mosher, Lucille Neveu, Marilyn O'Connell, Tom O'Connell, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Doris Welch, Tom Welch
- Section 21: Julie Heilman, **Dr. William Seleen**, Kelly Suckow, Sue Suckow
- Section 22: Linda O'Brian, **Dr. William Seleen**
- Section 23: Steve Maggio, **Dr. William Seleen**, Tom Simmons
- Section 24: **Tim Baird**, Pat Bogan, Tom LeBlanc
- Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Nancy Beattie, Stephen Eaton, Arlene Knittle, Jeff Reed, Clara Vales
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- Section 27: Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Harold Babcock, **Doris Burton**, Estella Cronauer, Audrey Dunham, Cindy Dutton, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Claribel James, Helen Link, Wilma Sanford, Lillian Simons, Jake Strong
- Section 28: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Warren Bouck, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Debbie Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Elsie Cushing, Kate Cushing, Mark Cushing, Phyllis DuBreiul, Ann Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, Walt Franklin, John Gradoni, Matt Hotchkiss, Betty Kellog, Wayne Kellog, Casey Klingensmith, **Clarence Klingensmith**, Margaret Klingensmith, Mark Klingensmith, Barry Lash, Cathy MacDonald, Marion McClure, Ken McClure, John Moreland, Mary Ormsby, Larry Osgood, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Danielle Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Laurie Rigiell, Helen Shear, Tera Soule, Cathy Sorochin, Conner Stephens, Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Abby Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Betty Warek-Fowler, Mary Lu Wells, Suzanne Wood, Fred Wygant, Pat Wygant



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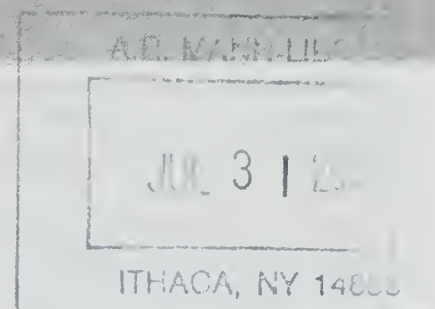
# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 66, No. 6 June, 2000



### THE MONTH: May

by Gerry Rising

We birders always look forward to May, the month when daily species counts are highest, when birds are in their brightest plumage and when the countryside rings with birdsong. But Mays differ from year to year and this one was not my favorite -- not by a long shot.

Consider the weather: According to the National Weather Service summary, this "was the coldest May since 1973 and the wettest since 1990." Remarkably, despite the first part of that statement, the temperature average, 57.5 °F, was almost a degree above the historical average -- local evidence for global warming. As so often happens with averages, this one also masks great variation. Again from the Weather Service: "The first 13 days were warm, averaging seven degrees above normal, the next two weeks were quite cool, averaging five degrees

too chilly. The month did end on the warm side on the last couple of days." A major effect of that warmth at the beginning of the month (together with April showers) was early leaf development which made finding birds in the foliage especially difficult this year.

But the bigger news was rainfall. All talk of the two year drought and low lake levels has gone by the

boards. That's the good news but, as always, farmers paid for it with unplowed fields and even crop losses. May rain totaled almost 4.4 inches, 40% above the historical average and making this the 9<sup>th</sup> wettest May in the past century. (Recall that April was wet too.) And when did most of it fall? You guessed it: from May 9-18, during the height of the migration but fortunately not extending to the May 21 count.

Despite this soggy month, the birds did appear and the too often downpour-soaked observers found many of them. (In this summary, I mention only the date range of most observations; the location and observers are to be found in the "Noteworthy Records" that follow.)

Among the unusually late (outside "Date Guide" range) records are: Red-throated Loon, May 14-20; Merlins, May 8-21; Lesser Black-backed Gulls, May 5-28; Pine Warblers, May 20-29 (perhaps on breeding territories); and a lovely breeding plumage male Lapland Longspur on May 5.

Those pleasant temperatures at the beginning of the month did not produce many early records, but we do have: Ruddy Turnstone, May 8; Alder Flycatcher, May 11; Willow Flycatchers May 9, 10; and Wilson's Warbler, May 6.

Southern herons continue their inroads -- range extensions? -- with visits by Snowy Egrets, May 23-31; Tricolored Heron, May 20-26; and Cattle Egrets, May 21-29. Will these species join the now nesting Great Egrets in this region? Other southerner species also continue to

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by Gerry Rising

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by Mike Morgante

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by Jim Landau

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Preserve Trip Report**  
by William Watson



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appear, some like the Acadian Flycatcher and Orchard Oriole possibly extending their range, others like the White-eyed Vireo and Kentucky Warbler victims of (overenthusiastic?) overflight. Will they join our cardinals, titmice, Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds? And we again had midwestern species: Connecticut Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrows. Were they blown off course or are they too moving in? Stay tuned for answers to these questions over the coming years.

As in recent springs both Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler hybrids, the Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, were recorded.

(We can thank Linda Holmes for finding and passing on information about the rarer Lawrence's Warbler.)

The May Count produced results that fit well with those of recent years. The total number of individual birds was very near the decade mean and the number of species recorded just one short of the decade maximum. Among the results worth our serious concern is the exponential growth of the cormorant population: this year's count tripled the previous high.

Some notes culled from observers' reports: Terry Mosher of Fredonia sadly attests to the withdrawal of Cerulean Warblers from Wheeler's Gulf where they had nested for at least 20 years. Linda Holmes continues her

regular surveys of Sinking Ponds in East Aurora. I commend people like her and Vivian Pitzrick and Mike Morgante who census the same area over and over. Their longer term records can prove a valuable resource about something that is missing from our archives: reasonable estimates of how the numbers of individuals vary over time. And add another warbler trap: Mike Turisk reported 17 species in or near the Penn-Dixie property in Hamburg.

Personal observations: Last May Richard Rosche noted the small numbers of Cape May Warblers and, although a few were reported this year (6 on the May Count), I missed them again as have many with whom I have spoken. Look back at Dick's report for a fine analysis of the situation regarding this species. Although Mike Galas, Bill Watson and I did find a single Henslow's Sparrow along Green Acres Road in Clarence, their numbers remain critical; none were recorded on the May Count. And it seems to me that the situation regarding Grasshopper Sparrows is, if anything, worse. I have never thought of them as nearly as uncommon as Henslow's, but we found none along Green Acres Road where we usually record a half dozen. I hope that my missing them is simply a function of my hearing loss. Meanwhile Upland Sandpipers appear to be lone individuals even in the few areas where they are recorded. Less critical perhaps, but still of special concern to me: Brown Thrashers continue to decline in numbers. The decade May Count averages for this species are: 60's, 381; 70's, 286; 80's, 106; 90's 62; with this year only 33 recorded. I miss these formerly rather common and wonderful hedgerow choristers, now as rare as mockingbirds.

## CALENDAR

**Aug 20: Canadian shore of Lake Erie** for shorebirds. Meet at 8 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Richard Byron (662-4783). If you want to meet on the Canadian side contact the leader.

**Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	14,20	1	<u>Attica Reservoir</u>	Fox
"	18,20	1	<u>Attica Reservoir</u>	Morgante et al
Common Loon	26	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
Horned Grebe	17,20	4,1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
D.-crested Cormorant	8,19	14,3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	14	510	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	22	<u>1114</u>	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	23	135+9nests	Strawberry Island	Watson
*Least Bittern	20F;22	1;3	Tifft N.P.	W&D Watson; Klick
"	20F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Fox et al
"	28	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Great Egret	5	11+4nests	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Klick
"	6	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	8	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	13	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
"	13,29	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	23;26	5;5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Wojewodzki; Watson
"	24	12ad+3nestl	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	28	2	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	20	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	23,27,28,31	1,1,2,1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	27	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Klick
"	29	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Roy
* <u>Tricolored Heron</u>	20	1	Somerset	Fox
"	26	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Klick
<u>Cattle Egret</u>	22	1	Machias	J. Landau, Wojewodzki
"	29	2	Avondale WWTP	Yoerg
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	38	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	5	45	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
"	13,17	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Mute Swan	6,20	3,2 ad.	Olcott	D'Anna et al
"	20	1	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Fox et al
Tundra Swan	17L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Gadwall	29	3	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	29	6	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
American Black Duck	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Blue-winged Teal	5	1ad.+8 yg.	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Shoveler	29	8	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	29	2	St.Catharines, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Green-winged Teal	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Redhead	17	5	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	29	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Ring-necked Duck	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox et al
"	20	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Fox et al
Greater Scaup	16;20	3;1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
Lesser Scaup	2;17	90;1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Hess; D'Anna
"	16	3	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	17,20;29	8,8;2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
Surf Scoter	20L	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante, D'Anna et al
White-winged Scoter	20	100	Olcott	Morgante et al
"	20	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante, D'Anna et al
Oldsquaw	20	10	Olcott	Morgante et al
"	20	7	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox et al
Bufflehead	16	5	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	17,20;29	4,3;2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
Common Goldeneye	20	1	Olcott	Fox et al
Red-br. Merganser	29	4	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Common Merganser	20	8	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Fox et al
"	20	4	Niagara Falls	Morgante et al
Ruddy Duck	17;29	60;34	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
"	28,29	7,3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	29	3	W. Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Osprey	6;23	1;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell; Wojewodzki
"	13	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	17	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	22	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
"	22	1	Attica Reservoir	Fuhrmann
"	28	1	Yates	Watson et al
"	28	1	Albion	Watson et al
"	28	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
Bald Eagle	5	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson
"	13	1 im.	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	17,20	4,3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	22	1 ad.	Attica Reservoir	Fuhrmann
"	23	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Wojewodzki
"	28	1 im.	Somerset	Watson et al
"	29	1 im.	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante
Merlin	7	1	Goat Island	Klick
"	<u>8</u>	1	Snyder	Klick
"	<u>14</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Peregrine Falcon	7	1	Somerset	Klick



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Virginia Rail	17	2	Pomfret	Mosher et al
*Black-bellied Plover	17F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	17F	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	D'Anna
"	20	1	Yates	Morgante et al
"	27;28	35;18	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky; Yoerg
"	28	3	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Semipalmated Plover	5F	3	Yates	Watson
"	6	4	Hartland	S&T O'Donnell
*Upland Sandpiper	3F,28	1,1	Tillman W.M.A.	Morgante
"	20	1	Oakfield	Morgante et al
"	22	1	Colden	Wojewodzki, Landau
"	24	2	Stevensville, Ont.	Benham
*Whimbrel	24	26	Rock Point P.P.	Benham
*Ruddy Turnstone	8F	2	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
"	17	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	24;29	22;20	Rock Point P.P.	Benham; Yoerg
"	27	24	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky, Davis
"	28	4	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Sanderling	28F	9	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Semipalm. Sandpiper	20F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
*Least Sandpiper	5F	4	Yates	Watson
"	7	3	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Morgante
"	7	8	Hartland	Klick, Sowinski
*White-r. Sandpiper	20F	1	Hartland	Fox et al
"	28	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Dunlin	6F	3	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	8	2	Tifft N.P.	Holmes
"	17,20	15,12	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	27	100	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky
"	24	25	Rock Point P.P.	Benham
"	28	46	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Short-b. Dowitcher	13F	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	13F	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
Bonaparte's Gull	8	420	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>5</u>	1	Goat Island	Klick
"	<u>13</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	<u>16</u>	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	<u>20</u>	1	Somerset	Morgante; Fox et al
"	<u>28</u>	2	Somerset	Klick et al
Glaucous Gull	20L	2	Somerset	Morgante et al
"	20L	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Fox et al
"	20L	1	Yates	Fox et al
Caspian Tern	24;29	6;3	Rock Point P.P.	Benham; Yoerg
"	28	4	Somerset	Watson et al
Black Tern	6	23	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	3	Niagara Falls	Morgante et al
"	23	3	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Wojewodzki
*Black-billed Cuckoo	20F	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	26	5	Newstead & vicinity	Watson, Galas
"	26,27	1,2	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	13F	1	Marilla	Holmes
"	17,20	1,1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
Long-eared Owl	20	1	Niagara County	Fox et al
*Common Nighthawk	17F-29	4	Lancaster	Morgante
"	19	1	Williamsville	Yoerg
"	22	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	30	1	Evans	Hess
*Ruby-t. Hummingbird	3F	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	4	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	4	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
*Red-headed Wdpr.	1	1	Hamburg	Andrle et al
"	5;6;11	1;2;1	Tifft N.P.	Watson; Morgante;Klick
"	5;15	1;2	Fort Niagara S.P.	S. O'Donnell; Klick
"	8	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
"	17	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	19	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	20	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante et al
"	20	1	Hartland	Fox et al
"	21-31	2	Como Park	Morgante
"	21,27	4,2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14	2	Snyder	Klick
"	20	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante et al
*Olive-s. Flycatcher	15F	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
"	22	1	Machias	Watson
"	22	1	Ashford	Watson
"	26	1	Newstead	Watson, Galas
"	26	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson, Galas
"	27,28	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Eastern Wood-Pewee	7F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Sowinski
"	10	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Yoerg
*Yellow-b. Flycatcher	13F	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	17	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	D'Anna
"	17,24	2,1	Snyder	Klick
"	19,20	1,4	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante et al
*Acadian Flycatcher	20F	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox et al
"	29	4	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
*Alder Flycatcher	<u>11F</u>	1-3	Amity	Pitzrick
"	17	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
*Willow Flycatcher	<u>9F</u>	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	<u>10</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
Great Cr. Flycatcher	2	2	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Hess
*Eastern Kingbird	4F	1	Snyder	Klick



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
“	4F	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
*White-eyed Vireo	6-14	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson; many observers
*Yellow-thr. Vireo	5F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	S. O'Donnell
“	6	1	Hartland	D'Anna
“	6	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg, Henderson
*Warbling Vireo	1F	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
“	2	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Philadelphia Vireo	9F;12;13	1;2:4	Williamsville Glen	Watson; Klick; Yoerg
“	10	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
*Red-eyed Vireo	5F	1	Bond Lake Park	D'Anna, Potter
“	6	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Blue Jay	5	2000	Fort Niagara S.P.	S. O'Donnell
Common Raven	1,5,25,30	1,1,1,2	Amity	Pitzrick
“	7	2	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg, Henderson
Cliff Swallow	7	1	Yates	Klick, Sowinski
“	20	15	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al
Red-br. Nuthatch	20	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante et al
“	27	3	Como Park	Morgante
Brown Creeper	27,29	1	Como Park	Morgante
“	28	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Carolina Wren	1	1	Tonawanda	Hess
“	1,6,13	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg; Klick
“	3	1	Como Park	Morgante
“	6	1	Hamburg	Turisk
“	8	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
“	12	4	Goat Island	Potter
“	14	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
“	17	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	D'Anna
Golden-cr. Kinglet	29,30	1	Como Park	Morgante
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	20	3	Somerset	Morgante et al
*Veery	4F	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
“	5	2	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Gray-cheeked Thrush	11F;13	1;1	Goat Island	Potter; Roberson
“	12,17	1,1	Snyder	Klick
“	29	1	Stiglmeier Park	Morgante
“	29	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
“	31	2	Tonawanda	Hess
*Swainson's Thrush	6F	2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante et al
“	9	1	Delaware Park	Klick
*Wood Thrush	3F	2	Como Park	Morgante
“	4	1	Eden	Andrle
“	4	1	Goat Island	S&T O'Donnell
Gray Catbird	3F	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
“	4	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
“	4	1	Snyder	Klick
Northern Mockingbird	15	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Klick
“	16	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Hess

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Pipit	13	26	Eden	Andrle
"	20L	3	Somerset	Fox et al
*Blue-winged Warbler	3F	1	Wheatfield	Potter
"	3F	3	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
*Golden-wing. Warbler	3F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	4,5,28	1,1,1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	5	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	12	1	Fredonia	Mosher
"	13	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	17,20	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Morgante et al
"	20	1	Somerset	Fox et al
"	26	3	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson
"	28	2	Shelby	Watson et al
*"Brewster's" Warbler	<u>5E</u>	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	26	3	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson
*" <u>Lawrence's</u> " Warbler	26	1	Newstead	Watson et al
*Tennessee Warbler	5F	3	Goat Island	Roberson
"	5F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
*Orange-cr. Warbler	3F	1	Niagara Falls	S. O'Donnell
"	4;6	1;2	Williamsville Glen	Morgante, Klick; Yoerg
"	6	1	Buffalo	Skalicky
"	12,13	1,2	Goat Island	Potter, D'Anna
"	12	1	Snyder	Klick
*Nashville Warbler	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson, Galas
"	1F	4	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
*Northern Parula	5F	3	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6,13	2,4	Goat Island	Potter, D'Anna
"	6	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	8	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	24	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Chestnut-s. Warbler	4F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	4F	1	Snyder	Klick
"	4F	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
*Magnolia Warbler	4F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	4F	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
*Cape May Warbler	4F	2	Williamsville Glen	Morgante et al
"	5	2	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Blk.-thr. Blue Warbler	1F	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	2	1	Tifft N.P.	Wojewodzki
Yellow-r. Warbler	5	253	Fort Niagara S.P.	S. O'Donnell
*Blackburnian Warbler	2F	1	Tifft N.P.	Wojewodzki
"	4	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	4	2	Williamsville Glen	Morgante, Klick
Pine Warbler	<u>6,20</u>	1,1	Olcott	D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	1	Amity	V. Pitzrick et al
"	<u>20</u>	2	Olcott	Morgante et al



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
“	<u>29</u>	1	East Otto S.F.	D'Anna
*Prairie Warbler	4F,7,11,30	2,1,2,1	Amity	Pitzrick
“	22	2	Concord	Wojewodzki, Landau
Palm Warbler	5	13	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson
*Bay-breasted Warbler	7F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
“	7F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
*Blackpoll Warbler	12F	1	Snyder	Klick
“	13	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
“	13	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
“	17	5	Point Gratiot	Mosher et al
“	27	10	Como Park	Morgante
“	27	10	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky, Davis
*Cerulean Warbler	6F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
“	13	2	Goat Island	Potter, D'Anna
*American Redstart	3F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
“	4	1	Goat Island	Roberson
*Ovenbird	1F	1	Attica	Taylor
“	3	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	1	Amity	Pitzrick
“	7	3	Attica	Morgante
“	20	1	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Fox et al
*Connecticut Warbler	<u>28</u>	1	Lancaster	Morgante
*Mourning Warbler	12F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
“	20	1	Somerset	Morgante et al
*Common Yellowthroat	3F	1	Wheatfield	Potter
“	4	1	Snyder	Klick
“	4	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
*Hooded Warbler	6F	1	Hamburg	Turisk
“	7	1	Gouinlock's Pond	Morgante
“	7	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Yoerg
*Wilson's Warbler	<u>6F</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
“	10	1	Goat Island	Potter
“	29	1	Hamburg	Andrle
*Canada Warbler	5F	1	Goat Island	Roberson
“	9	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Watson, Yoerg
“	22	3	West Valley	Wojewodzki, Landau
*Yellow-br. Chat	20	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Fox et al
*Scarlet Tanager	6F	1	Goat Island	Potter, D'Anna
“	6F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
Amer. Tree Sparrow	2L	3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
* <u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	5	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna et al
“	20	2	Somerset	Fox
“	20	1	Carlton	Fox
Vesper Sparrow	6,21	1,2	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
“	17	1 fledg.	Alabama	Morgante
*Grasshopper Sparrow	7F,18,20	1,1,1	Carlton Hill M.U.A.	Morgante
“	28	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Morgante

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Henslow's Sparrow	20F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox et al
"	29	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	29	1	Clarence	Watson et al
*Lincoln's Sparrow	5F;7	1;4	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna; Morgante et al
"	17	2	Times Beach, Buffalo	D'Anna
Lapland Longspur	<u>5L</u>	1	Yates	Watson
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	2F	2	Amity	Pitzrick
"	3	6	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
"	3	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
*Indigo Bunting	4F,5	1,1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	5	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
Rusty Blackbird	4	4	Williamsville Glen	Klick
"	6L	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Orchard Oriole	6F	1	Goat Island	Potter
"	7	4	Williamsville Glen	Klick
"	7	1	<u>Tifft N.P.</u>	Skalicky
"	9	1	Newfane	S&T O'Donnell
"	13	2	Rock Point P.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	20	1	Yates	Fox et al
"	28	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Baltimore Oriole	1F	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Klick, Sowinski
"	3	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
"	3	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Pine Siskin	2,3	2,3	Williamsville	Yoerg
"	4,8,11,20	1	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
"	5,10	3,10	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Yoerg
"	5-15	25 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	7	2	Hamburg	Morgante
"	7	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	16,18,20	1,2,1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	17-22	3	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	20	1	Somerset	Fox et al
"	24L	1	Snyder	Klick
Evening Grosbeak	1,6	23,1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	1-14L	12 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	13	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 189**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue including the May Count: 73**

**Total for the year 2000: 262**

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



# The 64th Buffalo Ornithological Society May Bird Count

DATE: May 21, 2000

COMPILER: *Jim Landau*

Weather Synopsis provided by National Weather Service, Buffalo, NY and Terry Yonker

During the week prior to the count, the weather was unseasonably cool and rainy. On the morning of the count the day began with clouds, mist and fog over most of the area following the passage of a low pressure center and cold front the previous day. An upper level trough continued to funnel cooler air into the area. Clearing took place over much of the area by midday as a center of high pressure moved into Western New York.

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP. [°F]	DEW PT.	HUMID.	PRESSURE [inches Hg]	DIR/WIND [mph]
Midnt	Cloudy	46	46	100	30.04 R	SSW 8
1 AM	Cloudy	47	47	100	30.03 R	SW 8
2 AM	Cloudy	47	46	96	30.04 F	W 3
3 AM	Cloudy	47	46	96	30.02 F	calm
4 AM	Cloudy	46	46	100	30.01 F	calm
5 AM	Cloudy	47	46	96	30.01 S	S 6
6 AM	Cloudy	47	46	96	30.02 R	SW 5
7 AM	Cloudy	47	46	96	30.02 S	calm
8 AM	Cloudy	48	46	93	30.03 R	calm
9 AM	Cloudy	48	46	93	30.04 R	calm
10 AM	Cloudy	48	46	93	30.04 S	calm
11 AM	Cloudy	49	46	89	30.04 S	calm
12 PM	Cloudy	51	46	83	30.03 F	calm
1 PM	Cloudy	51	48	89	30.02 F	SW 3
2 PM	Cloudy	53	48	83	30.01 F	SW 6
3 PM	Cloudy	54	48	80	30.01 S	W 6
4 PM	Cloudy	55	48	77	30.00 F	SW 9
5 PM	Partly Sunny	56	48	74	29.99 F	W 8
6 PM	Partly Sunny	55	48	77	29.98 F	SW 12
7 PM	Partly Sunny	54	48	80	29.98 S	SW 8
8 PM	Cloudy	52	48	86	29.98 S	SW 6
9 PM	Fair	50	47	89	29.96 F	calm
10 PM	Fair	51	47	86	29.96 S	calm
11 PM	Clear	50	47	89	29.96 S	S 3

**Daily Weather Summary:** Max Temp: 56 °F; Min. Temp. 46 °F; Precipitation: 0 inches

**Sunrise:** 5:46 AM EDT; **Sunset:** 8:37 PM EDT; **Lake Temperatures:** Lake Erie 54 °F, Lake Ontario 46 °F

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species seen on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section number(s) appear in parentheses. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. F and L represent first and last dates for the spring migration; \* represents first record for the year.

## LOONS – DUCKS

Common Loon	32	American Black Duck	1 (20)
Pied-billed Grebe	31	Mallard	871
Horned Grebe	6	Blue-winged Teal	58
Double-crested Cormorant	2,809	Northern Shoveler	9 (4,13)
American Bittern	5 (10,18)	Northern Pintail	1 (13)
Least Bittern	3 (11,18)	Green-winged Teal	9 (13,18,22)
Great Blue Heron	391	Redhead	7 (10)
Great Egret	14	Ring-necked Duck	26 (10,11,14)
<b>Cattle Egret</b>	* 1 (18)	Greater Scaup	87 (2,6,8)
Green Heron	74	Lesser Scaup	4 (7,13)
Blk.-crowned Night-Heron	72	White-winged Scoter	4 (4,5)
Turkey Vulture	244	Oldsquaw	25 (5)
Canada Goose	4,271	Bufflehead	14 (5,7,13)
Wood Duck	188	Hooded Merganser	45
Gadwall	23 (10,13)	Common Merganser	28
American Wigeon	35	Red-breasted Merganser	87
		Ruddy Duck	63

**OSPREYS – COOTS**

Osprey	4		<b>Merlin</b>	1	(16)
Bald Eagle	2	(10,24)	Peregrine Falcon	4	(11)
Northern Harrier	25		unspecified falcon	1	(4)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9		Ring-necked Pheasant	17	
Cooper's Hawk	8		Ruffed Grouse	18	*
Red-shouldered Hawk	12		Wild Turkey	62	
Broad-winged Hawk	5		Virginia Rail	7	(11,18)
Red-tailed Hawk	23		Sora	11	
American Kestrel	84		Common Moorhen	13	
			American Coot	88	(10,11,18)

**PLOVERS – TERNS**

Black-bellied Plover	29	(7)	Short-billed Dowitcher	2	(13)
Semipalmated Plover	16		Common Snipe	7	(13,18,26)
Killdeer	446		American Woodcock	7	(13,20,28)
Greater Yellowlegs	6	(5,13)	unspecified shorebirds	5	(7)
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	(4,13,23)	Bonaparte's Gull	240	
Solitary Sandpiper	5		Ring-billed Gull	21,530	
Spotted Sandpiper	94		Herring Gull	986	
Upland Sandpiper	1	(23)	Great Black-backed Gull	193	
Ruddy Turnstone	7	(6,13,20)	unspecified gulls	2	(13)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	32	(5,6)	Caspian Tern	11	
Least Sandpiper	36		Common Tern	116	
Dunlin	454		Black Tern	16	(10,14,21)

**DOVES – SWALLOWS**

Rock Dove	1828		Alder Flycatcher	27	
Mourning Dove	1913		Willow Flycatcher	57	
Black-billed Cuckoo	12		Least Flycatcher	81	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	(9,10)	empidonax species	17	
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	(3,12)	Eastern Phoebe	215	
Great Horned Owl	5		Great Crested Flycatcher	172	
Barred Owl	3	(20,25)	Eastern Kingbird	264	
Common Nighthawk	4	(3,4,21)	Yellow-throated Vireo	10	
Chimney Swift	618		Blue-headed Vireo	31	
R.-throated Hummingbird	271		Warbling Vireo	196	
Belted Kingfisher	87		Philadelphia Vireo	13	
Red-headed Woodpecker	21		Red-eyed Vireo	394	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	82		Blue Jay	876	
Yell.-bellied Sapsucker	26		American Crow	2,339	
Downy Woodpecker	247		Common Raven	8	(25,28)



Hairy Woodpecker	62	Horned Lark	16
Northern Flicker	199	Purple Martin	467
Pileated Woodpecker	15	Tree Swallow	2,246
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 (18)	N. Rough-winged Swallow	285
Eastern Wood Pewee	84	Bank Swallow	435
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3 (4,8,18)	Cliff Swallow	111
Acadian Flycatcher	4 (7,13,20)	Barn Swallow	2,622

#### CHICKADEES – WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	695	Eastern Bluebird	212
Tufted Titmouse	100	Veery	120
Red-breasted Nuthatch	44	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1 (11)
White-breasted Nuthatch	158	Swainson's Thrush	23
Brown Creeper	6	Hermit Thrush	11
Carolina Wren	6	Wood Thrush	251
House Wren	357	American Robin	4,881
Winter Wren	4 (11,23,25)	Gray Catbird	866
Marsh Wren	93	Northern Mockingbird	23
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	Brown Thrasher	33
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	L 6	European Starling	5,424
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9	Cedar Waxwing	326

#### WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler	96	Bay-breasted Warbler	14
"Brewster's" Warbler	1 (12)	Blackpoll Warbler	38
Tennessee Warbler	25	Cerulean Warbler	8
Orange-cr. Warbler	1 (2)	B.&W. Warbler	9
Nashville Warbler	11	American Redstart	195
Northern Parula	4	Ovenbird	122
Yellow Warbler	1,825	Northern Waterthrush	16
Chestnut-sided Warbler	159	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
Magnolia Warbler	122	<b>Kentucky Warbler</b>	1 (1)
Cape May Warbler	6	Mourning Warbler	33
Blk.-th. Blue Warbler	49	Common Yellowthroat	719
Yellow-rumped Warbler	118	Hooded Warbler	85
Blk.-th. Green Warbler	101	Wilson's Warbler	23
Blackburnian Warbler	75	Canada Warbler	24
Pine Warbler	1 (18)	warbler species	10 (3)
Prairie Warbler	2 (13,28)		

#### TANAGERS - HOUSE SPARROWS

Scarlet Tanager	75	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	403
Eastern Towhee	87	Indigo Bunting	143

Chipping Sparrow	630	Bobolink	690
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>	1 (4)	Red-winged Blackbird	4,744
Field Sparrow	100	Eastern Meadowlark	136
Vesper Sparrow	5 (4,15,27)	Rusty Blackbird	2 (4,11)
Savannah Sparrow	240	Common Grackle	3,504
Grasshopper Sparrow	3 (4,7)	Brown-headed Cowbird	667
Fox Sparrow	1 (19)	Orchard Oriole	5
Song Sparrow	1,438	Baltimore Oriole	624
Lincoln's Sparrow	2 (4,11)	Purple Finch	181
Swamp Sparrow	107	House Finch	544
White-throated Sparrow	30	Pine Siskin	37
White-crowned Sparrow	63	American Goldfinch	1,995
sparrow species	15 (3)	Evening Grosbeak	6 (19,28)
Dark-eyed Junco	181	House Sparrow	1,765
Northern Cardinal	647	unidentified birds	2 (13)

**Total Species Observed** 202  
**Total Individual Birds Observed** 87,291

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2000 is available from Jim Landau. In addition the following notes are added:

May 2000 Count highs for the past 10 years were recorded for Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Canada-Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Marsh Wren and Savannah Sparrow.

Notable low numbers for the same ten year period were recorded for Blue Jay, Bobolink and Meadow Lark.

Other May 2000 Count sightings of note were for Cattle Egret (1) last recorded in '86 (1), Kentucky Warbler (1) last recorded in '87 (1), and Clay-colored Sparrow (1) last recorded in '84 (1).

**OBSERVERS: (Compilers are printed in boldface)**

- Section 1: **Lynne Landon**, Jim Wojewodzki, Terry Yonker.  
Section 2: **Michael Davis**.  
Section 3: Ron Hacker, Suanne Hacker, Margaret Hoff, Matthew Kornacker, Patty Kornacker, Carl McMurtry, Susan Race, **Don Roberson**, Edmund Sullivan, John Welte.  
Section 4: Ed Crohn, Willie D'Anna, Tom Lathrop, Betsy Potter, Mark Schlacter, Mary Ann Stegmeier, **Bill Watson**.  
Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Aron Kehlenbeck, Jr., Aron Kehlenbeck, Sr., Zeke Kehlenbeck, **Brendan Klick**, Bob Lipp.  
Section 6: Bob Andrie, **Joe Thill**.  
Section 7: Ed Fuchs, **Mike Hamilton**, Jack Mansfield, Jim Rozanski, Elizabeth Wells.  
Section 8: Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**.  
Section 9: Michele Borucki, Mandy Galas, Mike Galas, Sylvia Galas, Tammy Kelly, Scott Meier, Debra Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, Betsy Potter, **Gerry Rising**, Chuck Rosenberg, Stan Watkins, William Watson.  
Section 10: Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, John Filor, Jocelyn Jones, **Morgan Jones**, Robert Wagner.  
Section 11: Ken Cohen, Marjorie Harwitz, Mitchell Harwitz, Marie Johnson, Alice McKale, Cathy Mueller, **Susan M. O'Donnell**, **Thomas M. O'Donnell**, Margaret Stewart.  
Section 12: Ann Bauer, Marion Bee, **Tom Harper**, Marlene Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Donna Wieand.  
Section 13: Doug Beattie, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Aron Kehlenbeck, Jr., Aron Kehlenbeck, Sr., Zeke Kehlenbeck, K. M. Leslie, **Jane Mason**, Marc Mason, **Max Mason**, David Muller, Gail Seamans, Don Thureau, Anita Wierzba.  
Section 14: Ernie Baker, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobler, Janet Evans, D. C. Happ, D. J. Happ, Adelaide Hunley, Erma Kern, Glenna Leous, Mike Noville, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Marge Vogel, **Barb Walker**, Margaret Wooley.  
Section 15: **William Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak, Dennis Russell.  
Section 16: Marian Dornhaffer, Audrey Horbett, **Frances M. Rew**.  
Section 17: Kathleen Farnsworth, Betty Hooker, **Thomas Koopman**.  
Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Marty Fay, Barbara Henderson, Jim Landau, Peter Yoerg.  
Section 19: *Allegany County Bird Club*: Barbara Cronk, **Alice Evans**, Lyle Hotchkiss, Dora Lilly, Philip Main, Bernard Mills, Larry Mullen, Roger Nicholson, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Linda Roth, Maxine Schembri, Marion J. Smith, Max Smith,



William Smith, Norbert Saylor, Ann Voss, Oliver Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson.

Section 20: Chris Budniewski, Raymond Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, Irene Coon, **Joanne Goetz**, Thomas Goetz, Joseph Gula, Terry Mahoney, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, Richard Miga, Lucille Neveu, Robert Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Doris Welch, Thomas Welch.

Section 21: Ranjit Laha, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**.

Section 22: Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Nancy Karp, Ranjit Laha, Helen Moe, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**.

Section 23: Christopher Berry, Ranjit Laha, Steve Maggio, Jean Pigman, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**.

Section 24: **Tim Baird**.

Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Dr. Stephen W. Eaton, Jeff McMullen, Jeff Reed, Carol Woodin.

Section 26: *Allegany County Bird Club*: Lou Bump, **Doris Burton**, Deborah Floyd, Frances Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann & Morris Scott, Becky & John Stoehr.

Section 27: *Allegany County Bird Club*: Russell Allen, Dan & Harold Babcock, **Doris Burton**, Estella & Fritz Cronauer, Audrey Dunham, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Helen Link, Lillian Simons, Jake Strong, Lee & Shirley Windus.

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**Total number of Observers: 256**

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## Field Trip to Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach

by William Watson

May 7, 2000 was a pleasant day. It was reasonably warm in the morning, and a 20 mile per hour lake breeze developed keeping it cool toward the noon hour, with few of the nine observers taking off their long sleeve shirts or light jackets. However, the increasing wind made it increasingly difficult to detect movements of small passerine birds.

The morning trip to Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach gleaned 77 avian species including eleven warbler species. The warbler species included several Black-throated Blue Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Magnolia Warblers, and nearly early Bay-breasted Warblers, as well as a single Blue-winged Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush. Other notable species were Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Eastern Kingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Marsh Wrens, four Solitary Sandpipers, Sora, Red-headed Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, and three Ruddy Ducks.

The best bird of the trip was a male Orchard Oriole first identified by Jack Skalicky. Several, but not all of the field trip members, were fortunate enough to be observing a Baltimore Oriole when the Orchard Oriole suddenly flew in and landed next to it!

At Times Beach the mud flats were exposed and we added Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Common Terns, Double-crested Cormorants, six Lesser Scaup, a Hooded Merganser, two Buffleheads, four American Wigeons, and one Northern Shoveler to the list.



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# The PROTHONOTARY

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### THE MONTH: June

by William Watson

The National Weather Service monthly summary for Buffalo states, "June capped off one of the wettest springs in history across western New York." June's rainfall of 6.51 inches was nearly twice the June average of 3.55 inches, while areas north of the city received 7 to 8 inches. This June was the cloudiest June of the century with only 44% sunshine. Despite the cloudy wet weather the average monthly temperature was nearly normal at 64.9 °F, and only 1.3 °F below the June average of 66.2 °F.

While our region had its second wettest spring of the century, the nation's heartland was suffering severe and extreme drought. Although drought conditions were relieved when over three inches of rain hit southern Minnesota and Wisconsin, eastern Iowa, and northern Illinois between May 30 and June 2, severe and extreme drought continued over eastern Nebraska, the southwestern half of Iowa, and northern Missouri.

What's bad news for farmers in the Midwest, however, may have been cause for good news for bird watchers in Western New York.

In much of the northeast there was a June Dickcissel invasion. A check of a few recent transcripts of the Hamilton Rare Bird Alert produced five locations for this species across Ontario. Of particular interest are two close to the BOS study area: one in Winoa just outside Grimsby (June 27 to July 23) and another in Hagersville in Haldimand

(June 24). A check of Pennsylvania bird hot lines revealed another five locations in western and central portions of that state. In New York, Dickcissels were found near Fort Edward (east of Albany) and in Chautauqua County, southwest of Dunkirk.

The Chautauqua County birds were first observed on June 13 when Dick Miga heard a "curious song" and subsequently discovered a singing male Dickcissel north of Van Buren Road in

the Town of Pomfret. Later in the month, a female joined the male and many birders observed her both following the male and being chased by him. Later still, Dick identified (primarily by plumage) two fledgling Dickcissels with the female. In only one other year (1988) has this species been confirmed as a breeder in our area. In the past, June Dickcissels have only been documented in the BOS territory in 1957, 1970 and 1988. Records are also present for the years 1975 and 1976 (*Kingbird* 27:26-27) but, surprisingly, these are not in the BOS archives.

Some interesting information about Dickcissels in New York: The species was believed to be a common to abundant breeder along the Atlantic states from Massachusetts to South Carolina in the early 1800's, but between 1850 and 1880 there was a sharp decline east of the Appalachian Mountains, and by 1905 this species was completely extirpated from its eastern range (Bent 1968). In fact, the 1976 colony noted above is believed to be the only New York Dickcissel colony in about 100 years of recorded observations (*Kingbird* 27:26-27). It is noteworthy that the three to five males and one female observed during the first week of June, 1975 and the ten males and five females studied between June 14 and July 17, 1976 were located directly across the street (Van Buren Road) from this year's Dickcissels! Whether selection of this breeding area, within a vast region of apparently suitable habitat, was governed solely by chance or, instead, by some other property is intriguing.

Why did the Dickcissel return to Western New York in 1988 and 2000 as a breeder after a hundred year exile? Perhaps it was driven out of its Midwestern plains breeding grounds because of a lack of food. In 1988, Richard Byron hypothesized that they extended their range due to severe drought in their breeding area. This year, once again, we have breeding Dickcissels and once again we have a drought in the midwest.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is the home of the National Drought Mitigation Center and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. The Climate Center's web site ranks precipitation at Lincoln from 1887 to 2000, between January 1 and May 31, from driest to wettest. Considering only the last thirty years, the four driest are 1994 and 1989 and the two years the BOS has had breeding Dickcissels in

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1988 and 2000. Is there anything else exceptional about the droughts in 1988 and 2000? Yes for two reasons: (1) the nine month period from September 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000 the Lincoln site records as the driest period in 105 years and (2) Spahn referred to the year 1988 as "a year of widespread drought across the country" (*Kingbird* 38:252).

Although the only two examples of confirmed breeding Dickcissels in the BOS region seem to show a drought connection (an exact logistic regression has a p-Value of .069), to correlate drought in the Dickcissel's midwestern breeding grounds with breeding eruptions in the east, more data is needed and a study on a larger regional scale would be necessary. This could be an excellent project for some individual or the BOS Research Committee.

The occurrence of several egret and heron species is of special interest. In June, the only event as rare as the

Dickcissel breeding was Bob Andrie's discovery of a **Tricolored Heron** on June 12 at Tiff Nature Preserve. Last year provided the only previous June record. Tricolored Herons have only been found in six other earlier years (1950, 1959, 1971, 1977, 1994, and 1996) and those records were all in May. The species is visiting the BOS study area more frequently in recent years and may be extending its range. There were also four records of Snowy Egret this June. A pair of Snowy Egrets was observed feeding, flying and roosting together on Motor Island, raising their status to probable breeders there this year. This is only the eighth year that June Snowy Egrets have been recorded in our area; however, the species has increased its status to a June regular by making its fifth consecutive yearly appearance! Great Egrets also continue their breeding success: a nestling hatched a month earlier than the previous state record (*New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Handbook for Workers 2000*). On June 19, five adults and eight nestlings of this species were counted on Motor Island. Mark Cousoulis, who surveys Motor Island by kayak for the

Breeding Bird Atlas, reported a "probable" six Great Egret nests this year.

On June 24, Terry Mosher was working on Breeding Bird Atlas block 1370d on Sage Road in Pomfret and listening to "languorous, antiphonal songs" of Savannah Sparrows and "the thin buzzy trill" of a Grasshopper Sparrow when he was surprised by the song of a Sedge Wren. He later had a short look at a second non-singing Sedge Wren. These birds were across the road and just north of where Terry had a Sedge Wren fourteen years earlier on June 26, 1986. June Sedge Wrens appear to be declining. In the sixteen years between 1965 and 1980, there were ten years in which Sedge Wrens were recorded in the BOS study area, but in the twenty years from 1981 and 2000 they were recorded on only five occasions. This is our first verified record of June Sedge Wren since they were found at Buckhorn Island in 1993. As with Dickcissel, Sedge Wren abundance may be correlated with times of drought in the Midwest.

Sue O'Donnell's Orchard Oriole at Joseph Davis State Park was a good find. This species appears to have been decreasing as a breeder in our area with only 15 June records in the last 36 years.

Double-crested Cormorants showed a dramatic increase in May and early June near Buckhorn Island. The 858 cormorants counted June 6 nearly triples any previous June high! Is there a connection between the 600 cormorants found wintering at Dunkirk Harbor this February 15, and these at Buckhorn this May? Perhaps not: Chip Weseloh, a Canadian Wildlife biologist and authority on this species, believes that those that wintered in Lake Erie should have moved north earlier than late May or early June.

Ospreys and Common Mergansers bred successfully at and near the Allegany Reservoir, but the Ospreys at Ringneck Marsh failed to breed for the first time in three years when a Canada Goose laid eggs in the Osprey's nest! The increase in Upland Sandpipers to five locations this June is probably a result of Atlas coverage.

Common Ravens and Prairie Warblers continue to do well in the Southern Tier, especially in Allegany County. Pine Warblers were found at only one location last June, but this June they were documented in Alfred, Phillips Creek State Forest, and East Otto State Forest. There were undocumented reports in two other locations.

Other interesting finds were: the June 4 Northern Goshawk in Alfred; the June 18 Long-eared Owl at Golden Hill State Park; the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Reinstein Preserve on June 3; the June Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Alexander; Brewster's Warblers at Newstead, Tonawanda Indian Reservation, Pendelton, and Hanging Bog WMA; the June 4 and 9, Nashville Warbler in Andover; the Red Crossbill in Almond on June 22; Clay-colored Sparrows in Andover (the 16th year out of the last 30 that this species has been found in our region) and many Acadian Flycatchers, Grasshopper, Henslow's and White-throated Sparrows, as well as a few Vesper Sparrows.

(I thank David Suggs, BOS Noteworthy Records Data Base, Robert Derr, statistician, Richard Miga, Allen H. Benton, Robert Andrie, Richard Byron, Arthur Schaffner, Terry Mosher, Willie D'Anna, D. V. Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service, Stephen McLaughlin, National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York, and Brian A. Fuchs, Climate Data Specialist, High Plains Regional Climate Center, for their assistance in the preparation of this report.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
D.-crested Cormorant	7	61 + 5 nests	Strawberry Island	Watson
"	7,15,30	858,473,326	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Great Blue Heron	4	150	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Great Egret	2-23	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	11	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	18	10	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	19,26	5ad+8yg,9ad	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	9,26;30	2,2;3	Motor Is.; Straw.Is.	Watson
"	19	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Watson
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	12	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
"	14	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Mute Swan	7,21	1	Niagara Falls	Hess
Wood Duck	10	8 yg	City of Tonawanda	Watson
American Wigeon	15	2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	16	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Redhead	20	5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Hess
Common Merganser	5	1 ad + 19 yg	Salamanca	LeBlanc
"	18	2	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
Osprey	14	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	18	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick
"	25	1	Salamanca	Hess
"	25,30	1 ad + 1 yg	Allegheny Reservoir	Hess
"	26-30	1 ad + 2 yg	Alleghany S.P.	Hess
Bald Eagle	18	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick
Northern Goshawk	4	1 ad.	Alfred	Klick
Broad-winged Hawk	3	1	Grand Island	D'Anna, Potter
Red-tailed Hawk	20	1 part albino	Hamburg	Andrle
Virginia Rail	3	2	Reinstein Preserve	Morgante
Upland Sandpiper	2	1	Niag. Falls Airport	Morgante
"	4	1	Sheldon	Harper
"	12	4	East Otto	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	3	Otto	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	3	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
Common Snipe	12	2	East Otto	D'Anna, Potter
Caspian Tern	25	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black Tern	4	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Hess
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	5	Porter to Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Long-eared Owl	18	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson, Klick
Common Nighthawk	29	2	Buffalo	Galas
*Whip-poor-will	9	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Klick et al
Red-headed Wdpr.	4	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Olive-s. Flycatcher	3L	1	Reinstein Preserve	Morgante
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	4L	1	Alexander	Fox
Acadian Flycatcher	4	1	Attica	Fox
"	10	1	Lancaster	Morgante, Gall
"	18	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick
"	18	1	East Otto	Potter, D'Anna
"	25	2	Eagle	Yoerg, Schlacter
Least Flycatcher	16	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson
Yellow-thr. Vireo	10	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	23	1	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
Common Raven	4	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	4	1	W. Almond	Klick, Sowinski
"	10	1	Andover	Brooks
"	18	1	Hanging Bog W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24,26	1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	30	5	Grove	Brooks
Bank Swallow	16	500+839 nsts	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson
Brown Creeper	20,28	1,1	N. Tonawanda	Watson
* <u>Sedge Wren</u>	24	1-2	Pomfret	Mosher
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	18,23	2 at nest	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
Swainson's Thrush	1L	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	28	2	Allegany S.P.	Hess
Hermit Thrush	17	1	Portland	Mosher
Northern Mockingbird	21	1	Darien	Harper
Golden-wing. Warbler	4	2	Barre	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	2	Pendleton	Sowinski
"	29	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson, Schlacter
"Brewster's Warbler"	4	1	Newstead	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	2	Pendleton	Sowinski
"	11	1	Hanging Bog W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Nashville Warbler	4,9	1,1	Andover	Brooks
Yellow-r. Warbler	5	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Pine Warbler	<u>4</u>	1	Alfred	Sowinski
"	<u>4</u>	2	Phillips Creek S.F.	Klick, Sowinski
"	<u>12,13,23</u>	1,2,1	East Otto S.F.	D'Anna, Potter
Prairie Warbler	1,7,10,28	4,5,6,4	Andover	Brooks



<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	1,12,19,30	1,1,1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	2,4,21	3,3,2	Alfred	Brooks
"	11	2	Rushford	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	3	Hanging Bog W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	2	Ward	Pitzrick
"	18,25	4,2	New Hudson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Birdsall	Brooks
Blackpoll Warbler	4L	1	Eggertsville	D&D Suggs
"	4L	1	Royalton	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4L	1	Alexander	Fox
Northern Waterthrush	17	3	Portland	Mosher
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	4	2	Andover	Klick, Sowinski
Vesper Sparrow	4	2	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	8,10,28,29	1,2,2,2	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	4	Newstead	Morgante
"	4	2	Alden	Morgante
"	7,10,23	1,2,1	Andover	Brooks
"	9	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Klick et al
"	16	3	Tillman W.M.A.	Klick
"	24	5	Pomfret	Mosher
"	30	1	Grove	Brooks
Henslow's Sparrow	4;9	2;2	Clarence	Yoerg; Hess
"	14,20	4,8	Lancaster	Morgante
White-thr. Sparrow	3,10	4,6	Alfred	Brooks
"	22	1	Almond	Brooks
"	22	1	W. Almond	Brooks
"	27	2	Granger	Brooks
"	30	3	Birdsall	Brooks
Dark-eyed Junco	25	1	Newstead	Klick
* <u>Dickcissel</u>	20	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	24	2	Pomfret	Watson, Galas, et al
"	25	1	Pomfret	Klick
"	28	1	Pomfret	K.Landau
Orchard Oriole	9	1	Jos. Davis S.P.	S. O'Donnell
Purple Finch	24	2	Marilla	Holmes
"	29	1	Somerset	Watson, Schlacter
Red Crossbill	22	1	Almond	Brooks

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 262**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue: 3**

**Total for the year 2000: 265**

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



## A Review of Canada Goose Subspecies in the Niagara Frontier Region

by Brendan Klick

While observing a large flock of Canada Geese, *Branta canadensis*, at the Ringneck Overlook in Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge during March 2000, Richard Sowinski and I noted a very small Canada Goose within the group. The smaller goose was almost identical in plumage to the other Canada Geese, except that it showed proportionally more white on the chin patch and was lighter colored on the breast and flanks. Most notably, it appeared half the size or less of the nearby Canada Geese and the bill appeared smaller than that of the other geese. A week later, I observed another small goose near the intersection of Niagara-Orleans County Line Road and Route 18 in Somerset, with similar characteristics. I had a chance to compare this individual to a nearby Snow Goose and estimated that the bird was about two-thirds the size of the Snow Goose. I identified both birds as the "Richardson's" or "Tall Grass" race of Canada Goose, *B. c. hutchinsii*. Four other individuals representing this race were also reported earlier in the month by Peter Yoerg at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge complex and 28 individuals of this race were observed by Mike Morgante, also at Iroquois, in October, 1999.

Prior to the sightings of 1999 and 2000, only nine sight records of this subspecies over a period of sixty years have been documented, suggesting a possible change in the occurrence of *B. c. hutchinsii* in our region. Supporting this hypothesis, Rosche (1999) noted increasing numbers of reports of *B. c. hutchinsii* from nearby Ontario as well as other localized sites in the Northeast where the subspecies was previously unknown, particularly in autumn. The reader should be cautioned however that an increase in Northeast *B. c. hutchinsii* sightings may only reflect increased observer awareness and scrutiny of this subspecies and not necessarily a change in its occurrence in this region. This article will examine the different Canada Goose subspecies, including *B. c. hutchinsii*, that have been documented or are hypothetical in the Niagara Frontier Region.

The smaller Canada Goose subspecies noted above, *B. c. hutchinsii*, was recorded as a very rare transient to the Niagara Frontier region by Beardslee and Mitchell (1965). Rosche (1999) notes that their usual migration path takes them through Manitoba, the eastern Dakotas, eastern Nebraska and Texas. The Canadian Wildlife Service (1999) indicates that over the last decade, this population has remained stable in its breeding range, located on the west side of the Hudson Bay. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) listed two specimens, one taken from Gaines in Orleans County and the other from Niagara Falls, Ontario, as well as seven sight records of this race. Of the two specimens, one could not be located, while the identification of the other, in the collection of the State Museum in Albany, has since been questioned by Bull (1974). Of the sight records, most are from early October or early April except for one

from winter; with all but one representing single individuals. After 1964, only two sight records have been accepted, one individual from Iroquois (November, 1986) and one individual from Yates in Orleans County (October 1995). Two other specimens of *B. c. hutchinsii* were collected, one in Suffolk County (November 1968), the other in Oak Orchard Swamp (April 1964); both are listed by Bull (1974).

The common subspecies of migratory Canada Goose in the Niagara Frontier Region is *B. c. interior* (Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965; Bull, 1974). According to Griffith (1998) two additional races of Canada Goose occur in New York State, nominate *B. c. canadensis*, believed to be the predominant form of migratory Canada Goose on Long Island, and *B. c. maxima*. Nominate *B. c. canadensis* is slightly larger and lighter on the underside than *B. c. interior*, shows wider feather fringes to the upperparts and shows more color contrast between the neck and the back (Bull 1974, Burn and Madge 1988). According to Griffith (1998), *B. c. interior* is separable in the field from *B. c. canadensis*. The "Giant" Canada Goose, *B. c. maxima*, is even larger than nominate *B. c. canadensis* and along with *B. c. canadensis* and *B. c. interior* and, according to Griffith (1998), probably comprise the subspecies breeding in New York. Bull (1974) states that frequent releases of captive birds are the only known source of breeding Canada Geese in New York and that New York state is well south of the historically nearest wild breeding populations located in central Canada.

The Canadian Wildlife Service (1999) notes that the population of *B. c. maxima* has increased to over 200,000 individuals in Ontario alone and that almost all of this population has grown from releases of this once endangered subspecies in the 1960s. They further define the breeding range of *B. c. maxima* as extending over most of the United States and southern Canada and state that this subspecies is the most common breeding goose over much of that range. Finally, some observers have speculated that some of the migratory populations of either or both, *B. c. interior* and nominate *B. c. canadensis* may have bred with local geese encountered on their migration route (W. D'Anna and J. Farrell, pers. comm.). If this is true, breeding Canada Geese in western New York may already represent a mixture of *B. c. interior* and *B. c. maxima*, and possibly nominate *B. c. canadensis*.

Of the smaller goose subspecies, the "Aleutian" Canada Goose, *B. c. leucopareia*, and the "Lesser" Canada Goose, *B. c. parvipes* are conjectured to occur in our region. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) mention 23 geese observed on the Niagara River in March, 1950 by Sheppard that were of the correct size for subspecies *B. c. leucopareia* or *B. c. parvipes*; he was quoted as saying that their coloration was most consistent with latter subspecies. Bull (1974), however, indicates these subspecies have not been documented in the state. The endangered "Aleutian" Canada Goose population was estimated at less than two thousand individuals a decade ago. This population winters in the state of California and breeds in the Aleutian Islands (Burn and Madge, 1988). For these reasons, it is quite



unlikely that this race occurs in our area. The "Lesser" Canada Goose however, which has a poorly understood breeding range in Alaska and Western Canada and winters east to the Gulf Coast, is more likely to occur in our area (Bellrose, 1976). It is smaller and slightly lighter colored than nominate *B. c. canadensis*, and is even lighter still than *B. c. interior*. Being intermediate in size between *B. c. hutchinsii* and *B. c. interior* and similarly pale colored like the former, *B. c. parvipes* could be misidentified as either of these two races if observed in the field.

At this point it is well to recall the taxonomic history of the Canada Goose in relation to what is stated in this review. Bellrose (1976) states, "Although most people can readily identify the species *Branta canadensis*, the 11 recognized races pose varying degrees of difficulty. At times professional biologists resort to the terms 'large', 'medium' and 'small' to identify birds where there is a mixing of races in winter populations. To compound the problem, the existing racial classification leaves much to be desired, because many birds fail to fit the 'pigeonholes' defined by their describers. Ornithologists have considered these variations to be clines of integration between racial groups. Until all the races of Canada Geese have been delineated, reported, reviewed and evaluated, those enumerated here will suffice to demonstrate the tremendous morphological range of a single species, some almost as large as a swan to others barely larger than a mallard." The otherwise excellent treatment of the Canada Goose by the Canadian Wildlife Service (1999) lists 14 populations of Canada Goose and gives population estimates for individual races; however, the Canadian Wildlife Service bases these populations almost solely on the geographic location of their breeding range. The publication gives neither morphological justification for its classification of the different populations nor criteria for which individuals of the different populations could be identified, either in the field or in hand.

Even the American Ornithologists' Union has not reached a definitive conclusion concerning the Canada Goose subspecies issue. The 5th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (1957) named 10 subspecies of the Canada Goose, but the latest edition (1998) noted "The northern populations of small Canada Geese have been variously treated taxonomically as three separate species, *B. hutchinsii* (Richardson, 1832) [Hutchins's or Richardson's Goose], *B. minima* (Ridgeway, 1885) (*sic*) [Cackling Goose], and *B. Leucopareia* (Brandt, 1836) [Aleutian Goose]; as a single species under the name *B. hutchinsii*; or as one or more subspecies of *B. canadensis*. Relationships between breeding populations and groups are still uncertain, but this complex probably consists of at least two species, a large one, *B. canadensis* [Canada Goose], and a small one, *B. hutchinsii* [Tundra Goose], that includes the other two groups (Aldrich 1946, supported by mtDNA data in Quinn *et al.*, 1991)."

Has the status of *B. c. hutchinsii* changed in the Niagara Frontier Region? The recent record of 28 individuals mentioned above is an unprecedented number and an increase in the number of sightings is suggestive; however, a change in occurrence is still speculative at this point.

What about the other Canada Goose subspecies in our region? *B. c. maxima* (the most common breeding subspecies in our region according to the Canadian Wildlife Service), *B. c. interior* (the common migrant subspecies in our region), or nominate *B. c. canadensis* (a common migrant on Long Island, NY) occur in this region. To better document these subspecies in the Niagara Frontier Region and define changes in their distribution and population, whenever possible, observers should report the presence of these subspecies. Note, however, that proof of subspecies identification may require measurements of specimens or captured birds. Finally, if the conjectured breeding between subspecies has occurred to any significant extent, then the already "slightly blurred" boundaries between those subspecies involved may become even more diffuse.

Acknowledgements: I wish to thank Willie D'Anna and Jerald Farrell for assistance in writing this paper, David Suggs for his help using the B.O.S Database, Jack Skalicky for his efforts editing the paper, and Dr. Robert Andrie for a critical reading of the manuscript.

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### September & October Calendar

**Sept. 13: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Members evening. Bring your slides, photographs, and stories to share. There will also be a business meeting.

**Sept. 27: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Steve Kahl from the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge will discuss ongoing research at the refuge.

**Oct. 8: October Count.**

**Oct. 28: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain**  
for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna. Meet at 8 a.m. at Wright's Corner. Route 78 at Tops Market, just north of Route 104 intersection.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: July

by Joseph Thill

Meteorological conditions on the Niagara Frontier in July tell a tale of two weather systems. The month began with a continuation of the pleasant weather that ended an otherwise dreary June. A series of high pressure systems moving southwesterly from James Bay and the upper Great Lakes brought cold fronts and sunny and cool weather for the first twelve days of the period and no precipitation worthy of note. The low temperature for the month at Buffalo, 45°F, was recorded during the early morning hours of July 11th. On the 14th as the high pressure moved off the Atlantic Coast, a series of low pressure systems from north of Lake Huron and the Mississippi Valley moved across the lower Great Lakes bringing light rain overnight to Buffalo but more severe weather with violent thunderstorms and heavier precipitation north and south of the city. Henceforth until month's end, the region was sandwiched between a large stationary ridge of high pressure over the Atlantic Coast and a

series of upper level low pressure systems stalled over the western Great Lakes and the Ohio Valley. Both systems brought moist warm air, clouds and intermittent shower activity alternating with intervals of sunshine and high temperature. On July 31st warm air circulating above these systems precipitated violent thunderstorms across the Southern Tier counties and the City of Salamanca in southwestern Cattaraugus County was

completely isolated for two days by rising flood waters from the Allegheny River and feeder streams. The high temperature at Buffalo was recorded on July 31st when the thermometer reached 84°F. Average temperature for the month at Buffalo, 67.7°F was 3.5°F below normal. Precipitation in the form of rain measured 2.90 inches, 0.18 inches below normal. Buffalo rainfall exceeded 0.50 inches only on July 9th (0.74 inches) and 21st (0.78 inches). And for the month 54.1% of possible sunshine was recorded at Buffalo. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, NY as posted on the internet and the daily "Weather Report" column in the *Buffalo News*.)

There was no midsummer lull in birding activity in July. On the 26th Bill Watson found an Eared Grebe in "almost adult breeding plumage" swimming and diving in a lagoon at the City of Batavia Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) in Genesee County. This is the third summer record for the species in our study area, the first being two grebes in basic plumage found in the same lagoons at the WWTF in August 1997 (see *Prothonotary* 63:10, 106-7). A third Eared Grebe in alternate plumage was seen in Lake LaSalle on the University at Buffalo Amherst Campus in May 1998. On July 6th in the course of his waterbird studies on the Niagara River, Watson found a Snowy Egret feeding in the shallows near the shoreline of Strawberry Island. This is the seventh summer record of this extraterritorial wanderer on the upper river since 1992 with reports of at least one egret in each of the last four years. Most sightings were at Strawberry Island or downriver on Motor Island in the Town of Tonawanda.

**78 The Month**  
by Joseph Thill

**80 Noteworthy Records**  
by Mike Morgante

**83 Peregrine Nestings on the Niagara Frontier.**  
by Bill Burch

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by Gerry Rising

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by William Watson

**85 Calendar**

The enthusiasm engendered by the field work on



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the *Atlas 2000* project of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs in July brought a significant increase in breeding bird records to the attention of our compiler. Of special interest this month are new records of Henslow's Sparrows nesting in suitable grassland habitat in the Southern Tier and Erie County. New locations in July include a second population of this species in the Town of Lancaster where Mike Morgante found two sparrows in an old field on Pavement Road on the 8th. Upon returning to the site on July 17th he counted three sparrows, including a singing male. On July 1st Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter found a Singing male Henslow's Sparrow in an overgrown pasture on Swamp Road in the Town of Otto in Catt-

araugus County. When they returned to that location on July 22nd they saw another singing male, presumably the same bird, but no evidence of nesting activity. On both of these dates D'Anna and Potter also located two Pine Warblers in a red pine plantation in East Otto State Forest in that township but no evidence of breeding activity. On July 3rd Brendan Klick found a Pine Warbler in similar habitat at the Bush Hill State Forest on Stebbins Road in Farmersville Township in Cattaraugus County where these warblers have been seen in spring and summer for the past five years. However, observers have been unable to find evidence of nesting in this locality although singing males have been reported. A singing male Pine Warbler was reported in an evergreen grove on Balcom Drive in the Town of Aurora in Erie County but no documentation of the

sighting was received by our statisticians. On July 2nd in the course of his atlasing activities at Chestnut Ridge County Park in the Town of Orchard Park, Jack Skalicky found an adult Golden-Crowned Kinglet with two fledged young birds in a small plantation of Scotch pine and balsam fir trees. This is a first record of breeding activity for the species in the park and an extension of its range as a nesting bird in Erie County. In a forthcoming article, corresponding member Betsy Brooks will write about her observations of a nesting pair of Clay-colored Sparrows in the Town of Andover in Allegany County in July. On July 7th Bob Andrie's atlasing adventures took him to a 1500 acre lot on property that was formerly part of the sprawling Bethlehem Steel Corporation complex in the City of Lackawanna where it functioned as a dumping ground for slag from the blast furnaces at the mill. Although the substrate he traversed on that date was still largely composed of slag, Andrie reports that nature has for the most part reclaimed its own and among the many species of birds he observed at that location was a pair of Mockingbirds!

Most active birders in the Niagara Region of our study area are in agreement that the premier birding hot spot on the north shore of Lake Erie during spring and fall migration periods is Rock Point Provincial Park in the Regional Municipality of Haldimand. In July the attraction of the park assumed a new dimension with the establishment of a bird-banding station at its western boundary. The station, a small wood frame building, is the handiwork of Jim Smith of Dunnville, Ontario, a retired schoolteacher who for the past two years has worked with John Miles of Jarvis, Ontario in a banding project under the aegis of the Haldimand Bird Observatory. Funds for the construction of the banding station and the equipment to commence operating it were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and a conservation group, *Friends of the Environment*. The operation of the Rock Point station is also directed by Haldimand Bird Observatory. Jim Smith has been the sole coordinator of the banding activities since they commenced on July 1st, being present at the site "from dawn until 12:30 p.m." every day except Sunday. 32 species of passerines and 707 individuals were recorded by month's end including 207 Yellow Warblers, both adult and juvenile birds in migratory movement commencing as early as July 15th — unprecedented early dates in unprecedented numbers.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Bob Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Alice McKale, Mike Morgante, Gerry Rising and Jack Skalicky in the preparation of this article.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Loon	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	2;26	42;61	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Watson
"	4	370	Mohawk Is., Ont	Klick
"	5	212 +56nests	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	19	231	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Great Blue Heron	2	64	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	2	51	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Great Egret	2,9	17,11	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	12	3 ad + 15 yg	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	15	3	Tonawanda	Watson
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	29	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	6	2	Strawberry Is., Niag. R.	Watson
American Wigeon	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	4	3	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
American Black Duck	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Northern Shoveler	2;26	3;1	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Watson
"	11	1	Alabama	Watson
Redhead	11.26	6.4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Bufflehead	<u>2</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Hooded Merganser	26	15	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	4	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	5	15	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson
Common Merganser	1	1	East Otto	D'Anna et al
"	2;16	1;8	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Seamans
"	4	10	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
Ruddy Duck	2	50	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	16;26	68;69	Batavia WWTP	Seamans; Watson
"	19	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Osprey	1	1 ad + 1 yg	Allegheny Reservoir	Hess
"	9;18	1;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; S&T O'Donnell
Bald Eagle	9	1 imm.	Fort Niagara S.P.	Roberson, Simon
"	19	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Virginia Rail	22	1 ad + 4 yg	Tonawanda	Watson
Common Moorhen	16	2 ad + 5 yg	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
American Coot	11.19	59.103	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Semipalmated Plover	29F	3	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Killdeer	19	80	Lancaster	Morgante
Lesser Yellowlegs	4F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	5	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Watson, Galas
"	16	2	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	17	1	Burgeson N.S.	Yoerg
Solitary Sandpiper	17F	3	Burgeson N.S.	Yoerg
"	22	1	East Otto	D'Anna, Potter
Upland Sandpiper	1,22	1,2	Otto	D'Anna, Potter
Ruddy Turnstone	29F	3	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Sanderling	21F	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	26	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	29	3	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	2	Windmill Point, Ont.	Skalicky
Semipalm. Sandpiper	21F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	26	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	29	12	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Least Sandpiper	5F	5	Rock Point P.P.	Watson, Galas
"	5F	3	Wainfleet, Ont.	Watson
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	17	5	Burgeson N.S.	Yoerg
*Pectoral Sandpiper	29F	11	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Stilt Sandpiper	29F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Short-b. Dowitcher	21F	1	Pomfret	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	26	8	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	4	28	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	4	21	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick
Caspian Tern	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	4:29	2:10	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	23	1	Buffalo	Watson
"	30	1	Windmill Point, Ont.	Skalicky
Forster's Tern	<u>26</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Black Tern	11,19	9,2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Common Nighthawk	29	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4:30	3:1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick; Skalicky
"	10	1 yg.	Point Gratiot	Klick, Harris
"	29	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Crescent Beach, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
Acadian Flycatcher	1	5	Collins	D'Anna
"	2	1	Hunter's Creek	Davis
Common Raven	2,4,5,7	1,1,1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	20,27	2,2	Andover	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	16	2 @nest w.yg	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Nuthatch	15-20	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Brown Creeper	2	1	Hunter's Creek	Davis
"	4	2	Alden	Taylor
Carolina Wren	4	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick



<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	19	1	Como Park	Morgante
"	30-31	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
<u>Sedge Wren</u>	10	3	Pomfret	Klick
Marsh Wren	16,22	6	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Yonker, Landon
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2	1 ad + 2 yg.	Chestnut Ridge Park	Skalicky
Northern Mockingbird	26,28	1,2	Tonawanda	Hess
Brown Thrasher	22	2 ad + 2 yg	Tonawanda	Watson
Golden-wing. Warbler	9	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	20	1	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson
"Brewster's Warbler"	9	1 fledg.	Lancaster	Morgante
Chestnut-s. Warbler	8	2 ad + yg	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Magnolia Warbler	1	3	Lewiston	Roberson
"	20	1	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson
Pine Warbler	<u>3</u>	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Klick
"	<u>6,22</u>	2	East Otto S.F.	D'Anna et al.
Prairie Warbler	1,4,18,25	1,1,2,2	Andover	Brooks
"	5,16	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	8,19	1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
Cerulean Warbler	1	1	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson
"	13	1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Waterthrush	13	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson et al
Hooded Warbler	1	1	Lewiston	Roberson
<u>Clay-col. Sparrow</u>	7,20,26	1,2,1	Andover	Brooks
Vesper Sparrow	21	1	Pomfret	Yoerg, Schlacter
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	1	Andover	Brooks
"	16	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Morgante
"	16	4	Newstead	Morgante
"	16	1	Alden	Morgante
"	17,21	2,2	Pomfret	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	21	1	Alfred	Brooks
Henslow's Sparrow	6,22	1,1	Otto	D'Anna, Potter
"	8,17	4,8	Lancaster (William)	Morgante
"	9,19	2,3	Lancaster (Pavement)	Morgante
"	17,21	3,3	Pomfret	Yoerg, Schlacter
White-thr. Sparrow	2,17	4,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	13	3	West Almond	Brooks
Dark-eyed Junco	1	1 juv.	Fort Niagara S.P.	Landon
Dickcissel	10	2	Pomfret	Klick
Orchard Oriole	4	2 ad + 1 yg	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
Purple Finch	5	1	Morgan's Point. Ont.	Watson
Pine Siskin	<u>17</u>	1	Colden(f)	K. Landau

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total for the year 2000:</b>	<b>267</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



## Area Peregrine Falcon Nestings Are a Success in 2000

by *Bill Burch*

Buffalo's Statler Building peregrines fledged four young this year. At Niagara Falls the Canadian pair, from a well-concealed nest on Goat Island, NY, fledged at least two young, probably at the cliff site they used last year.

The Buffalo pair followed the custom of city peregrines and overwintered in the city. When the nest box video camera was reinstalled in mid-December of 1999 the street-level monitor showed the two peregrines roosting in the relatively warm box.

Eggs were laid at two-day intervals commencing on March 30 and ending with the fourth egg on April 5 on which day incubation began. The chicks hatched between May 5 and 9, for a total incubation time of 30-34 days. This schedule for both egg dates and fledging, was two weeks later than that of 1999.

Banding of the chicks at the age of three weeks was done on May 26 in the adjacent elevator equipment room at the top of the Statler Building. The 10 fascinated watchers included a Channel 4 video operator, a reporter, and two Canadians from the Peregrine Foundation. The banding was done by Mark Kandel of the Department of Environmental Conservation, assisted by Mike Allen from the Avon DEC. Banding took 43 minutes, during which time the parents flew past the nest box crying angrily. When the chicks became too hot or noisy, they were quieted with a spray of water which they seemed to relish. I had my photos developed at a 1-hour place then rushed to the Buffalo News where they were digitally stored. The reporter, Henry Davis, used two (in color with my by-line) for a well-prepared article the next day, Saturday, May 27.

The young male fledged first on June 12 and quickly became a strong flier. The three females, being larger, fledged later, on June 15 and 16. Two of them learned the hard way that they hadn't practiced enough before taking their first leap. One was found sitting on the sidewalk a block away. It was picked up by City Rodent Control workers. The other was found on the walk near the Statler Building and was picked up and taken to the SPCA where it rested over the weekend and let the writer get some closeup photos. On Monday it was taken to the relatively flat Statler roof, a good location for it to practice its strokes under the eye of a parent. Two days later the second bird was placed on the roof.

It soon became difficult to keep track of the birds. All were accounted for on June 18 when the two adults were on the Liberty Building, two young were on the Statler and two were in custody. On June 21 we could see two adults and three young. On June 30, 12 days after fledging, two adults were seen plus one young which was being fed. On August 9 the young were 80 days old by which time they had dispersed. We made a 10-minute search from the 26th floor of the Rand Building and for the first time found no peregrines. Perhaps the parents were taking a little well-deserved vacation.

## Charlie Halvorsen

by *Gerry Rising*

The first time I met Charlie Halvorsen was in the early 1990s at a meeting called by the then B.O.S. president to discuss the status of **The Prothonotary**. A serious problem had arisen: distribution of the journal was falling farther and farther behind. At the time it was being delivered almost a half year late.

When the meeting began there was evident hostility among those attending toward Charlie as the person who some believed was responsible for the delays. It soon became clear, however, that the fault for late publication lay not with him but with those providing him with the content for the issues not yet published.

Most of us came away from that meeting with changed attitudes. Given our better understanding of the effort required and the complications attendant on B.O.S. publishing, our regard for Charlie rose sharply. Moreover, we were amazed that he was willing to put up with a most difficult undertaking, given not only the onerous nature of the job but also the general lack of appreciation for his efforts and those of his wife Barbara.

Shortly after that meeting I took over responsibility for preparing monthly summaries and census reports for the journal and in those roles had the opportunity to work more closely with Charlie. I found him not only supportive of my work but also quite willing to try new means of communicating my columns to him. We got on very well and I found our association a most rewarding one. When I had to move on to other responsibilities, I was especially sorry to have to give up our most enjoyable interactions.

Now after a decade and a half of quietly and steadily providing a major service to this society,



Charlie and Barbara Halvorsen are passing on their duties to others. They have served us with no self promotion which has meant that many B.O.S. members know nothing of their efforts. I take this opportunity, therefore, to salute them for their contributions. I urge all society members to join me in thanking them and wishing them the very best.

And finally, I hope that now they will even be able to find a few minutes once again to get out birding.

### **Field Trip to Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach**

*by William Watson*

September 3, 2000 was a cloudy, but bright, day with a temperature of 75°F and a light southerly wind. The previous days had temperatures in the high eighties with a strong southerly wind. The southward Fall migration appeared at a stand-still so my expectations were low as twelve BOS members and friends gathered in the Tifft Nature Preserve parking lot to search for early Autumn migrants.

As we walked into the woods we were greeted by a calling Great Crested Flycatcher. In the woods along Mosquito Junction Boardwalk we saw a group of warblers, but they were high in the trees and silhouetted against the bright overcast sky and nearly impossible to identify except for an American Redstart identified by Bob Andrle. Later, along the Service Road we had a second group of warblers and found Black-and-white Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler.

On Rabbit Run Alice McHale first heard a Warbling Vireo, which we saw later in the morning. At Lisa and Beth Ponds we found seven Wood Ducks, a Green-winged Teal, two Blue-winged Teals and three Black-crowned Night-Herons.

At Times Beach I was surprised to find nearly sixty shorebirds! The same strong south and southeast wind that had held up the warbler migration for five days had exposed extensive wet mud flats. Shorebirds observed included two Dunlin, five White-rumped Sandpipers, about thirty Semipalmated Sandpipers, eight Least Sandpipers, and nine Semipalmated Plovers. Watson's axiom is: When strong south or southeast wind hold up the fall warbler migration at Tifft, go to Times Beach for shorebirds!

## **17th Edition Membership Directory Correction**

*by Michael Hamilton*

My apologies to Joe Thill, whose name and credentials were mysteriously and inadvertently omitted from the 17th Edition of the Membership Directory. If there are other errors or omissions please let me know. Joe's entry should read:

Thill, Joseph F.  
36 Allegany Ave.  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
877-7257

Associate '53  
Active '60  
Citation '69  
Fellow '74



Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## October and November Calendar

**Oct. 8: October Count.** Compiler Michael Hamilton

**Oct. 11: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)

**Oct. 22: Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge** for fall migrants and waterfowl. Leaders: Tom and Susan O'Donnell. Meet at 8 a.m. at refuge headquarters.

**Oct. 25: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)

**Oct. 28: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain** for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna. Meet at 8 a.m. at Wright's Corner. Route 78 at Tops Market. just north of Route 104 intersection.

**Nov. 8: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Tom LeBlanc from the Pfeiffer Nature Center in Porterville, NY will discuss his research with "Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks".

**Nov. 19: Niagara River** for waterfowl and gulls. Leaders: Bob Spahn (GOS) and Brendan Klick (BOS). Meet at 9 a.m. at Fort Niagara State Park parking area near the Coast Guard Station.

**Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271

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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 66, No. 9 September, 2000

### THE MONTH: August

by Gerry Rising

Thank goodness August is more than an out-of-town vacation month for a good number of local birders. Records from twenty birders provide a good sampling for this month that marks at once the end of the nesting season, the gathering into small and large groups of passerine migrants and — most exciting — the southward passage of most shorebird species.

McLaughlin's National Weather Service summary tells us that this August was marked by "a shaky start but a warm summery finish." As so often happens in this area, however, the averages don't tell the full story. For example, the temperature average, 68°F, was about a degree cooler than average for August, but that final week with temperatures well up in the 80°F

range (but no 90°F this year) masked a cool third week when nighttime temperatures dropped into the 40°F range.

Similarly, the August rainfall average — 3.2" at the airport — was down about an inch, but almost all of that rain fell on nine of the first twelve days — the exception a downpour on the 23<sup>rd</sup> — and the South towns received over five inches for the month.

Of interest for its possible negative effect on breeding birds is the "meteorological summer (June through August)

summary" which records this year as 4<sup>th</sup> coolest and 8<sup>th</sup> wettest of the past 50 years, with most of those two inches of surplus rain falling in June.

The result of all this for August 2000 appears overall to be a set of records quite usual for this time of year. The longer-term exception to this is the influence of increased coverage at the extensive Batavia sewage lagoons where more and more unexpected waterfowl spend the summer. Consider the list: Eared Grebe (2!), American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal (20!), Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck (85!). It is usual each summer to have one or two records of species like these that are migrants to the far north — the single White-winged Scoter at Rock Point is more typical — but all these birds in one place? Granting the wonderful attraction of raw sewage, surely there must be other reasons for these unusual numbers. I suspect that one contribution may be from those who raise and release waterfowl, in the process adding birds to the wild with depressed migration instinct. It will be interesting to determine if these species will now begin to nest in this region.

At Buckhorn at least, those damned cormorants seem to have reached — at 1250 — the top of their ogive curve, but they continue to increase elsewhere, for example doubling their numbers from last year's max at Strawberry Island. All these numbers in a single decade!

The number of unusual shorebirds appears to be normal for this migration with Red Knot and Western and Baird's Sandpiper best of show. It is good to note the five Upland Sandpipers at the Buffalo airport. Since these birds lay three to five eggs, this may well

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be a single family group, but any of these birds are welcome here.

The early fall movement of warblers seems quite normal. A welcome addition to the BOS study area is the banding station at Rock Point Provincial Park (see *The Prothonotary* 2000 9, 78-79) where 595 birds were trapped, many of them warblers. Jim Smith's work there will add to the banding records of Betsy Brooks in the Southern Tier and Jerry Farrell in Niagara County to fill in over time the details of migration extent and peaks for this region.

Miscellaneous comments: With our local breeding population of Common Nighthawks completely lost, it is good to have 200 migrants

pass through in a single group. Half-hardies, those southern immigrants, appear to continue down with few Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Northern Mockingbird reports. Along with the usual gathering flocks of blackbirds and starlings it is always good to note large numbers of swallows and Bobolinks, the recorded flocks of 100 and 200 of the latter quite unusual in my experience. Most welcome during this low in their cycle is the Pine Siskin in Colden. And again we have those strange residents in West Almond, Red Crossbills. It is quite usual to have a few of these birds stay over after a winter incursion, but these individuals have remained longer than expected. While the territory seems perfect for them, their longer-term habitation there is questionable.

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1999-2000

by Mike Hamilton; October 11, 2000

The past year has been an active one with changes in our meeting structure, several new committee chairs, a new editor and a new look to the Prothonotary, a well organized and executed Banquet in November with an excellent speaker, yet more Bonaparte's Gull surveys along the Niagara River and at the roosting area on Lake Ontario at the river's mouth, two very successful youth days at Tifft in the spring, the positive conclusion to the battle against the proposed golf course at Joseph Davis State Park, major member involvement in this, the first year, of the Atlas 2000 project, the reinvigoration of our telephone hotline, a new edition of our membership directory (finally!), BOS meeting and trip announcements in the Buffalo News Sunday calendar section, consolidation of our membership lists from three to one, an increase in membership and, lastly, a much healthier financial status, thanks in part to the special membership categories which are being supported by many members. It has also been a sad year with the passing of one of our most active members, Bob Brock.

Ongoing projects include the BOS Annual Checklist with relative abundance charts, updating of our section maps, indexing of the Prothonotary to make it more useful as a research tool (all of which should be completed this coming year), planning work with NYS Parks for habitat improvement at Goat Island, continued involvement in support of the Niagara River IBA and its evolving conservation plan and continuing review of the construction documents for the observation pull-off on the Robert Moses Expressway.

I think that our experiment of having open discussions rather than programs at our second monthly meetings has been enjoyable and productive. It has helped us to better define what we want the Prothonotary to do and how we can improve our counts. It has also given members a chance to raise issues of concern or interest and more time to discuss these. I hope that we will continue this practice.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for his or her hard work and support this past year. I am most grateful for it.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Loon	14	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
Horned Grebe	17;27	1;1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al; D'Anna
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	5	1	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna, Potter
"	7;31	1;1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
D.-crested Cormorant	3;17	225;600	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al
"	3	242	Reef Lighthouse	Watson et al
"	5;11	64;91	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna; Watson
"	9,16	245,620	Strawberry Island	Watson
"	13	395	Somerset	Klick
"	14,25	783, <u>1250</u>	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	26	120	over Lancaster	Morgante
Great Blue Heron	5	78	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna
Great Egret	1,9,16	9,6,2	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	2-19	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	3	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson et al
"	5;21;28	13;26;14	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg; Watson; Klick
"	6;27	1;3	West Lincoln, Ont.	Klick, Harris; Yoerg
"	7;11;26	2;4;2	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Watson; Morgante
"	8	3	Amherst	Hess
Black-cr. Night-Heron	21	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
Tundra Swan	<u>6</u>	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
American Wigeon	3;28	1;3	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna; Klick
"	11;26	2;1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
American Black Duck	3;7	1;1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna; Klick
"	8	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Mallard	28	975	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
Blue-winged Teal	3,14	1,25	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
"	7	4	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	11;26	6;80	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
Northern Shoveler	7;26;31	1;35;113	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Morgante; Klick
"	19F	1	Crescent Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
Northern Pintail	3	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Green-winged Teal	3	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	5	West Lincoln, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	26	20	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Redhead	2;11	1;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Watson
"	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Lesser Scaup	5-31	1	Batavia WWTP	several observers

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris
White-winged Scoter	<u>3</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Watson et al
Oldsquaw	<u>27</u>	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
Bufflehead	<u>5</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al
"	<u>11</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	<u>31</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Common Goldeneye	3,6	1,1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
Hooded Merganser	11	6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	3,6	2,2	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick
"	7	4	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
Common Merganser	3,24	11,15	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson et al
"	16	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Ruddy Duck	5;26	67;85	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna; Morgante
Osprey	2,7	1,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	3	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Rock Point P.P.	Morgante, Stiner
"	31	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
Bald Eagle	2-31	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
"	5	1 ad.	Findley Lake	Taylor
"	19	1 ad.	Rock Point P.P.	Potter et al
"	29	1 im.	Charlotte	Rew
Broad-winged Hawk	19	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Klick et al
Merlin	<u>27F</u>	1	Kenmore	Thill et al
Peregrine Falcon	10	1	Buffalo	Morgante
"	<u>14</u>	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	24	1	Buffalo	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	3F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
"	3F	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Watson et al
"	24	45	Dunnville, Ont.	Watson, Yoerg
"	27	18	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Golden-Plover	27F	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalmated Plover	3	12	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
Greater Yellowlegs	2F	12	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	3	4	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	98	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	3	145	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al
Solitary Sandpiper	3	28	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
Upland Sandpiper	14	5	Buffalo Int. Airport	Morgante
"	20	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Whimbrel	3F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
Ruddy Turnstone	3	11	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
*Red Knot	17F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al
Semipalm. Sandpiper	3	45	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick et al
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	21	4	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Watson, Sowinski
"	24	1-2	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
"	31	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
White-r. Sandpiper	14F;24	2;3	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris; Yoerg
"	14F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	28	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
*Baird's Sandpiper	24F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Yoerg



<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Pectoral Sandpiper	2;3	60;51	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick; D'Anna
Stilt Sandpiper	3,20	10,1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
"	3	15	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	2	Wainfleet, Ont.	Klick, Harris
Short-b. Dowitcher	2,7	29,2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	3	45	Rock Point P.P.	Klick et al
Common Snipe	14;27	2;2	West Lincoln, Ont.	Klick, Harris; Yoerg
"	21	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
*Red-necked Phalarope	28F;29	1;1	Barker WWTP	Klick, Harris; Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	3	71	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al
"	20;28	95;114	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick, Harris
Caspian Tern	3,14,20	14,12,15	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick et al
"	7	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	11;31	2;4	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Klick
"	11	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	13	19	Olcott	Klick
"	20,27	10,6	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick
Forster's Tern	3	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	13	1	Somerset	Klick
"	14	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	24	3	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Watson, Yoerg
Common Nighthawk	15,18	2,2	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	21-31	10	Tonawanda	Hess
"	24	2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	25	200	Cambria/Wilson	S. O'Donnell
"	27	49	Kenmore	K&J Thill
Whip-poor-will	4	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	6;17	1;1	Windmill Pt, Ont.	Klick, Harris; Watson
"	7	1	Shelby	Klick
"	13	1	Somerset	Klick
"	14	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	24	8	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Yoerg
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	10F	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
"	17	1	Snyder	Klick
Eastern Kingbird	26	4	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Yellow-thr. Vireo	21	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
Common Raven	7	1	Andover	Brooks
"	11	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	24,28	2,1	Alfred	Brooks
N. Rough-w. Swallow	6	200	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris
Bank Swallow	13	180	Yates	Klick
Tufted Titmouse	24	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
Red-br. Nuthatch	31	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
Carolina Wren	9-20	1	Como Park	Morgante
"	13	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	19	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	20	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris
"	24	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Watson
"	27	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick et al
Swainson's Thrush	8,17	1,1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Mockingbird	1-31	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	3	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Watson et al
Blue-winged Warbler	19F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Golden-wing. Warbler	12	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
Chestnut-s. Warbler	13	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
Cape May Warbler	26F	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
Blackburnian Warbler	21F	3	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
Bay-breasted Warbler	21F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
"	26	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
Blackpoll Warbler	23F	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
"	25	1	Snyder	Klick
Black-and-white Warb.	19F	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Ovenbird	23	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
Northern Waterthrush	19F	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, J.Smith
Mourning Warbler	17	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg et al
Hooded Warbler	13	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
Wilson's Warbler	18F,19	1,1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
Canada Warbler	13F,21	1,1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
"	21	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	2	1 ad + 2 yg	Andover	Brooks
"	7	2 ad + 2 yg	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	11	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Yoerg
Bobolink	19-21	100	Wethersfield	Junkin
"	27	200	Smithville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Red Crossbill	12,28,31	1,2,4	West Almond	Brooks
Pine Siskin	<u>24</u>	1	Colden(f)	K. Landau

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 267

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue: 4

Total for the year 2000: 271

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Jim Landau, Karen Landau (Chair), and Victoria Onorato; October 11, 2000

Membership Total:255

<u>Charter</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Associate</u>	<u>Corresponding</u>	
Honorary	<u>1</u>	Existing	99	Existing 42
Fellows	<u>7</u>	New	19	From Associate 2
Citation	<u>4</u>	Total	<u>115</u>	From Active 1
Active				New 1
Existing	73			Reinstated 2
From Associate	6			From Sub. 3
Total	<u>79</u>			Total <u>49</u>



# BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2000-2001

*by Lynne Landon, Mike Hamilton, Gerry Rising (Budget Committee)*

*September 13, 2000; Amended by BOS vote on September 27, 2000*

Following is the approved budget for the BOS fiscal year 2000-2001 and a preliminary budget for 2001-2002 for the General/Prothonotary Fund and the Special Projects Fund. The 2001-2002 preliminary budget is included as a guide only and will be revised and voted on next year. Please note that each year's ending bank balance for the General/Prothonotary Fund is also a general operating contingency for that year, which we have assumed will not be needed.

	General/Prothon. Fund:		Special Projects Fund:	
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2000-2001	2001-2002
Opening Balance:	\$3,500.00	\$1,707.00	\$409.76	\$0.00
2000-2001 Dues:	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00		
Date Guide Sales:	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Special Membership Premiums:	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00		
Advertising (Prothonotary):	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Interest (Special Projects Fund):			\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b><u>Total estimated income:</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,700.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,907.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,409.76</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,000.00</u></b>
General operating expense (recent actual amounts have varied from \$776 to \$1,762 excluding contributions)	\$900.00	\$900.00		
Contributions	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Speakers Fund (reimbursable expense for travel, lodging)	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Vaughn Lecture Series (reinstitution of support)	\$100.00	\$100.00		
Prothonotary (current estimate)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00		
Meeting Room (annual contribution to Buffalo Museum of Science for our bi-weekly use of the Cummings Room)	\$300.00	\$300.00		
2004 Banquet Fund	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Delegates to Annual Meeting of Federation of NYS Bird Clubs (reimb. exp. for registration and lodging @\$100.00 / delegate)	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Young People's Weekend (to encourage/foster young people's interest in birds)	\$100.00	\$100.00		
BOS Graphics Coordination and Update (to create a more unified and contemporary image for all BOS printed matter)	\$300.00	\$200.00		
Map Project (to update BOS section maps and identify key birding areas and species therein)	\$593.00	\$200.00		
BOS Yearly list (to include graphics to show relative abundance and scarcity of each species for each month of the year)	\$500.00	\$00.00		
Beardslee & Mitchell update	\$100.00	\$100.00		
Special Project Grants				
<b><u>Total estimated expense:</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,993.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,000.00</u></b>		
<b><u>Ending bank balance (general operating contingency):</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,707.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$907.00</u></b>		

## November and December Calendar



**Nov. 8: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Tom LeBlanc from the Pfeiffer Nature Center in Porterville, NY will discuss "Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks in Allegany State Park". This will be followed by a short business meeting.

**Nov. 19: Niagara River** for waterfowl and gulls. Leaders: Bob Spahn (GOS) and Brendan Klick (BOS). Meet at 9 a.m. at Fort Niagara State Park parking area near the Coast Guard Station.

**Dec. 2: Niagara River** for waterfowl and gulls. Leader: Mike Morgante (683-4819). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sir Adam Beck Power Plant, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

**Dec. 13: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Members will briefly relate how they became interested in birding. A business meeting and a holiday social will follow with members bringing food and drink. The public is invited.

### Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)

**Dec. 16: Beaver Meadow CBC.** Saturday. Compiler: Bill Michalek (457-3228; daytime).

**Dec. 17: Grand Island CBC.** Sunday. Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).

**Dec. 23: Oak Orchard CBC.** Saturday. Compiler: Steve Kahl (813-0081).

**Dec. 31: Hamburg/East Aurora CBC.** Monday. Compiler: Brendan Klick (839-1792).

**Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271



Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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# Buffalo Ornithological Society

## ANNUAL DUES NOTICE (10/11/00-10/9/01)

Membership levels:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00 ARTIC TERN (Corresponding) The long distance migrants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (Active/Associate-Individual) The ever present worker and backbone of the society.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 AMERICAN CROW (Active/Associate-Family) You never see just one.

For those who want to give more:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Always scratching for a little more.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75.00 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH One that has put something aside for the future.
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- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 GREAT HORNED OWL Able to cough up a little more.
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E-mail address\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ TO INDICATE ANY CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS ABOVE

Dues are payable in U.S. Funds to **BOS**. Please respond by **December 15, 2000** to:

Lynne Landon, Treasurer  
139 Jackson St.  
Youngstown, NY 14174

PLEASE CHECK IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE\_\_\_\_OR DROP\_\_\_\_MEMBERSHIP

**THANK YOU**

**Buffalo Ornithological Society**  
**ANNUAL DUES NOTICE (10/11/00-10/9/01)**

**Please complete information on the other side  
of this sheet and forward to Lynne Landon.**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 66, No. 10    October, 2000

### THE MONTH: September

*by Mike Zebehazy*

The high temperature for the first day of September was 88°F, making it the hottest day of the summer, at least at the Buffalo airport in Cheektowaga where these measurements were recorded. Four days later the high was only 63°F, a 25°F change. The daily highs continued to roller coaster throughout the month. Periods of beautiful summer weather alternated with the cooler autumn days. The average temperature for the month was 61.2°F, 0.7°F below normal. The low temperature for the month, 33°F, occurred on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This was only 1°F higher than the lowest low ever recorded for this month. Of course low-lying areas and places away from the lake would have had even lower temperatures. Northerly winds which can help migrants on their southward migration occurred on September 2, 4, 5, 24, 25, and 28. Large numbers of warblers and other migrants were reported in the Buffalo area, and in several locations in Ontario outside our study area, on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Although the month began relatively rain-free, it ended almost one-half inch above normal with a total of 3.92 inches. Totals can be somewhat deceptive, however. About one-half of the rain fell on two days, the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. More than two inches of rainfall occurred between the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>. Flooding occurred in many places in Erie and Wyoming counties along creeks and in poor drainage areas.

Bird records for the

month indicate the continuation of some recent trends. Double-crested Cormorant numbers continue a steady increase for September over the last ten years. In 1990 individual birds of this species were considered noteworthy with a high of 149. By 1998 the high number for the month was 1158. This year we have a new record of 1820. Will there come a time when the New York DEC will want to consider measures to reduce the local population?

The Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant (BWWTTP) continues to be a magnet for waterfowl and shorebird species. It is there that a large portion of the September sightings requiring written documentation occurred. An Eared Grebe was found there on the first of the month. Most likely the same bird was again present on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The only other time this species appeared in the Noteworthy Records for September in the previous ten years was in 1997. An early Greater Scaup and a Bufflehead were also reported from BWWTTP. Bufflehead are expected in the Fall beginning about October 10 making this bird nearly forty days early. Also on September 1 three Western Sandpipers were recorded from this location. They were with a group of twelve Semipalmated Sandpipers allowing for good comparisons of the bill length, thickness, and curvature. As Bill Watson reports, "...the bills on these individuals were longer and drooped more than those of any of the Semipalmated Sandpipers that I had observed."

Another great location for unusual fall migrants is Woodlawn Beach State Park. This place is easily accessible and there is no parking fee at this time of year. Currently a major construction project is underway at the site but beach access is no problem. A very late Buff-breasted Sandpiper was recorded there on

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the 24<sup>th</sup>. Because of the variation in plumage Andrie suspects that this was a juvenile bird in transition. He notes: "The dark center wing covert and scapular feathers seemed broad and not as elongated as in an adult giving the upperparts a scaly appearance." This writer was dismayed to learn that the first sighting occurred only five hours after he had been at the same location. No doubt the same bird was seen the next morning.

The bird species of the month (at least!!) was a Long-tailed Jaeger. The first time this species was officially recorded in the BOS study area was in September 1996 in Buffalo and at Fort Erie. Those sightings were in conjunction with Hurricane Fran.

This month's bird was seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>, a day with strong westerly winds. Winds of the previous day were also strong and from the southwest. Referring to the tail, Watson indicates, "The streamers [central tail feathers] were about an inch long and the same thickness throughout their length. They showed no tapering or narrowing as would be expected with a Parasitic Jaeger." The bird flew overhead at about 20 to thirty feet. "The bird was very slim and had nothing similar to the robust full-breasted appearance of a Pomarine Jaeger," Watson concluded.

Two Long-billed Dowitchers in juvenile plumage appeared on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Iroquois NWR. The birds were there again on the 24<sup>th</sup>. They were serendipitously with a juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher which allowed for extensive comparison. According to D'Anna's

report he eliminated Short-billed Dowitcher from the birds in question because of a "...lack of conspicuous internal markings on the scapulars and tertials," as well as, "...central tail feathers with black bars much wider than the white bars."

On the 12<sup>th</sup> a remarkable 46 Bay-breasted Warblers were reported. Klick explained that this was a very conservative count because the birds were in one specific tree while nearby trees were "loaded with warblers, many of them also Bay-breasted."

Of the 120 species deserving special reports in the records this month, about 50 were recorded on September 24<sup>th</sup>. This was also a great day for migrants at Tifft Nature Preserve where among other passerines, 20 warbler species settled in.

On a more trivial note, the number of noteworthy species recorded for September, 2000 is 120. This can be compared to the previous ten Septembers as follows: 1999, 90; 1998, 90; 1997, 107; 1996, 121 (Hurricane Fran); 1995, 77; 1994, 85; 1993, 88; 1992, 78; 1991, 93; and 1990, 97.

## Notes on an Unusual Gull

by Brendan Klick

On April 2, 2000, at Goat Island, I noticed a very unusual gull. The bird was seen at close range, from the outer bridge connecting the Three Sisters islands. It was with a group of about fifteen Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*). The bird was noticeably larger than the Herring Gulls by 10 to 20 percent and was more slender than that species. Its head was large, white, completely unmarked, and squarish in shape. The irides were dark brown and were proportionally very small compared to the Herring Gull. The bird had a proportionally shorter and thinner bill than the Herring Gulls. The lower mandible had a red spot on the gonys bordered distally by a thin black band crossing the two mandibles, much as on California Gull (*Larus californicus*). The mantle color was very slightly darker gray than on the nearby, similarly positioned Herring Gulls. The legs were pale yellow, while the feet were pink. The primaries were slate gray instead of black. When the wings were folded, the primary tips showed only a small amount of white, much less than on the Herring Gulls. When the wings were spread, only one small white mirror was visible on P10, the outermost primary. I again

(continued on page 101)



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Loon	8	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	24	2	Somerset	Klick et al
"	24	1	Olcott	Klick et al
Horned Grebe	24	2	Olcott	Klick et al
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	1;9	1;1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Klick
D.-crested Cormorant	1	136	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	3	1079	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson, Schlacter
"	8	305	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick
"	20	<u>1800</u>	Dunkirk Harbor	Miga
"	22	480	Buffalo Harbor	Klick
Great Egret	1,9,24	4,6,5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson et al
"	2,17	1,1	W.Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Snow Goose	<u>24F</u>	1	Yates	Watson
American Wigeon	23	230	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Northern Shoveler	1,9	40,98	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Northern Pintail	23	17	Batavia WWTP	Klick et al
Redhead	23	7	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Ring-necked Duck	9,23	4,13	Batavia WWTP	Klick et al
Greater Scaup	<u>1,9;23</u>	1,1;2	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Klick
Lesser Scaup	1,9;23	1,1;7	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Klick
"	24	30	Olcott	Klick et al
Surf Scoter	<u>24F</u>	1	Olcott	Klick et al
White-winged Scoter	24F	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson
"	24F	51	Olcott	Klick et al
Bufflehead	<u>1,9</u>	1,1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
"	<u>9</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Red-br. Merganser	9	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Klick
"	16	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	24	15	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante
Common Merganser	26	13	Marilla	Holmes
Ruddy Duck	1,9;23	75,81;111	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Klick
Osprey	1	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson, Schlacter
"	12,18	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	28	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Bald Eagle	4	1	Wilson	S&T O'Donnell
"	9,24	4,2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson et al
"	17	1 ad.	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	1 im.	Pomfret	Moshers

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Merlin	4	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
"	10	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
Peregrine Falcon	3F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	1	Buffalo	Morgante
"	21	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Holmes
Ruffed Grouse	24	1	Somerset	Klick, Harris, Watson
Wild Turkey	24	11	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Amer. Golden-Plover	17	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	12	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	24	36	Shelby	Watson
"	24	9	Clarence	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	31	Alabama	Klick
Semipalmated Plover	5	36	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
Solitary Sandpiper	10	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
*Willet	1	2	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Harris
Spotted Sandpiper	25	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson, Klick
Ruddy Turnstone	21	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson, Yoerg
"	24	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Red Knot	2,3	5,1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	6	121	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
<u>Western Sandpiper</u>	1	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Least Sandpiper	24	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna, Potter
White-r. Sandpiper	2,4	2,1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3,6;7;9	5,6;7;1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Watson; Klick; Morgante
"	4	1	Smithville WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4,5	2,2	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Baird's Sandpiper	2;6	2;2	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg; Andrle
"	2,4,17	1,1,1	Smithville WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5,7,12	3,1,1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
"	8;10	1;1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick; Yoerg
"	9	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Klick
Pectoral Sandpiper	2,17	20,29	Smithville WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Dunlin	3F	2	Times Beach, Buffalo	Watson(BOS)
Stilt Sandpiper	9	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick
"	17	1	Smithville WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Buff-br. Sandpiper	2	1	Clarence Turf Farm	Harris
"	4,5	1,1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	<u>24</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Andrle
"	<u>25</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson, Klick
Short-b. Dowitcher	6	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Watson
"	24	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna, Potter
* <u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	23	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	24	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna, Watson
Common Snipe	4,15	10,15	W.Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	29	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick



<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Woodcock	2	1	Lackawanna	Harris
*Wilson's Phalarope	1;4	1;1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Harris
Red-necked Phalarope	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Harris
"	21	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson, Yoerg
* <u>Long-tailed Jaeger</u>	21	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson
<u>Jaeger species</u>	17	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Yoerg
Bonaparte's Gull	5,12	335,440	Niagara Falls	Klick
Lesser Black-b. Gull	12,22	1,1	Goat Island	Klick
Caspian Tern	8	11	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick
"	10,22	15,2	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	10	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg
Forster's Tern	9	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Black Tern	21	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson, Yoerg
Common Nighthawk	7	11	Eden	Harris
"	20	4	Marilla	Holmes
Chimney Swift	25	75	Niagara Falls	T. O'Donnell
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	25	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Schlacter
"	5	1	Goat Island	Klick
"	9	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Eastern Wood-Pewee	28	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	28	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Least Flycatcher	9F;12	2;1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante; Klick
Empidonax species	22	2	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	15	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	25L	1	Celeron	Vanstrom
Eastern Kingbird	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
"	4L	1	Somerset	S&T O'Donnell
Blue-headed Vireo	18F	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	24	2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	24	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
Yellow-thr. Vireo	10L	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Warbling Vireo	24L	2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	24L	2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	24L	1	Somerset	Klick et al
Philadelphia Vireo	6	1	Golden Hill S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	9,23	1,1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	9	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	15	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	23	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	24	4	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	28L	1	Snyder	Klick
Common Raven	6	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	16,17,23	1,1,1	Amity	Pitzrick et al
Tree Swallow	23	170	Batavia WWTP	Klick
N. Rough-w. Swallow	24	150	Shelby	Watson
Barn Swallow	29	3	Oakfield	Klick
Cliff Swallow	9L	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-br. Nuthatch	24	15	Krull Park	S&T O'Donnell
Carolina Wren	1-30	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	3;24;26	1;2;2	Tifft N.P.	Watson; Morgante; Andrle
"	8	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg, Watson
"	11,13	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
"	30	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Andrle
Winter Wren	21F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	24	2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	24	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson
Golden-cr. Kinglet	22F	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	13F	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	4	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	23	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Veery	24	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9F,24	1,2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	13	1	Williamsville Glen	Klick
"	13	4	Rock Point P.P.	J.Smith
"	23	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Swainson's Thrush	8	2	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	13	7	Rock Point P.P.	J.Smith
"	23	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	3	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Hermit Thrush	22	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Wood Thrush	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Somerset	Klick et al
Northern Mockingbird	2	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Brown Thrasher	24	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	24	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
"	29	1	Snyder	Klick
American Pipit	24F;25	2;20	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson; Klick
"	24F	1	Somerset	Klick et al
Blue-winged Warbler	4L	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Tennessee Warbler	9,24	3,2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	23	2	Lancaster	Morgante
Orange-cr. Warbler	13F	2	Goat Island	Roberson
"	22	1	Goat Island	Klick
"	30	1	Tifft N.P.	Harris
Nashville Warbler	24	25	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Northern Parula	7,13,14	1,1,1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	8	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
"	12	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Yellow Warbler	9,24L	1,1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	18	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Chestnut-s. Warbler	10	13	Goat Island	Roberson
Magnolia Warbler	9,24	10,15	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	12	34	Goat Island	Roberson
Cape May Warbler	12	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	22	1	Goat Island	Klick
"	24	1	Somerset	Klick et al



<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Yellow-r. Warbler	16F	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Blackburnian Warbler	24	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Pine Warbler	12F	1	Goat Island	Klick
“	23	1	Lancaster	Morgante
“	24	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Palm Warbler	6F	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
“	10	1	Goat Island	Roberson
“	10	1	Goat Island	Roberson
“	28	16	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Bay-breasted Warbler	9,24	6,5	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
“	12	<u>46</u>	Goat Island	Klick
Blackpoll Warbler	9,24	8,3	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
“	12	13	Goat Island	Klick
American Redstart	12F	21	Goat Island	Roberson
“	24	3	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Ovenbird	9,24;28	1,1;1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante; Klick
“	28	1	Snyder	Klick
Northern Waterthrush	8,15	1,1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
“	13	2	Goat Island	Potter
Connecticut Warbler	24	1	Somerset	Klick, Harris
Mourning Warbler	24	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Hooded Warbler	24	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Wilson's Warbler	24	3	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Canada Warbler	8	1	Williamsville Glen	Yoerg
“	10	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Scarlet Tanager	28	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Lincoln's Sparrow	24F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
“	24F	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Watson
White-thr. Sparrow	16F	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
“	16F	1	Tifft N.P.	Fox
Dark-eyed Junco	22F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Rose-br. Grosbeak	23F	2	Lancaster	Morgante
“	24;28	6;1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante; Klick
Indigo Bunting	24	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
“	24	2	Somerset	S&T O'Donnell
Rusty Blackbird	17F	2	Smithville WWTP,Ont.	Yoerg
Baltimore Oriole	3	5	Tifft N.P.	Watson(BOS)
“	18L	1	Eden	Harris

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>271</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue plus one from August:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total for the year 2000:</b>	<b>277</b>

Statisticians’ Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



noted that the white tips on the outer primaries were very small. The amount of slate gray on the upperside of the primaries was the same as the amount of black shown by a Herring Gull. The tail lacked either a subterminal band or any form of brown flecking, shown by some third year birds. I aged the bird as an adult because the tail was unmarked. Also, the slate gray on the upperwing was confined to the primaries and did not extend into the greater primary coverts as it does on third year birds.

I find that this individual matched no known gull species in North America or any other species listed in thorough treatments of the gulls of the world by Dwight (1925) or Harrison (1985) nor does the individual exactly match the description of any recorded hybrid in North America but several potential hybrids can explain some (but not all) features of this gull. (i.) Glaucous (*Larus hyperboreus*) X Herring ("Nelson's Gull") are occasionally reported on the Niagara River and are typically larger than Herring Gull and show gray primaries. However, "Nelson's Gull" is described as having large mirrors and noticeably white tips on the outer primaries, pale yellow irides in adult plumage (both parent species show yellow irides), and a paler mantle than *L. a. smithsonianus*. (ii.) A hypothetical hybrid between Glaucous Gull and Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) might exhibit a larger size than the latter, show dark irides and have slate gray primaries. However, this hybrid primary pattern would lie somewhere between its two parent species and therefore show a considerable amount of white in the primary pattern (Klick 1999). Also, this hybrid would presumably show pink legs. (iii.) Another hypothetical hybrid between California Gull and Herring Gull would explain the bird's dark mantle, yellow legs and California Gull type bill pattern. However, this hybrid would presumably be smaller than *L. a. smithsonianus*, have black primaries and would show two white mirrors on P10 and P9. (iv.) Still another hypothetical hybrid between California Gull and Glaucous Gull might show dark irides, California Gull type bill pattern, have slate gray primaries, and yellow legs and would be larger than Herring Gull. However, this hybrid should show a considerable amount of white on the primaries, at least showing two white mirrors on the outer primaries. Also this hybrid seems unlikely to occur, considering that the breeding ranges of California Gull and Glaucous Gull do not overlap (Grant 1986). (v.) A final hybrid is possible: Glaucous-winged (*Larus glaucescens*) X Herring hybrids are

quite common on the west coast of North America however these birds are quite unlikely to occur in the BOS study area. Western Gull and Glaucous-winged Gull have not been recorded east of the western Great Lakes (National Geographic 1999). Nevertheless, I think that the latter hybrid most closely matches the bird observed. It can show dark irides, a darker mantle color and a similar shape (Grant 1986). However, this hybrid would not be expected to be larger than a Herring Gull and would not show the California Gull type bill pattern.

I can offer no explanation for the individual observed. The combination of large size, dark irides, slate gray primaries and striking bill pattern is unlike anything I have ever seen. Any thoughts? I would like to thank Willie D'Anna for his comments about the bird and Dr. Robert Andrlé for critically reading the manuscript.

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- National Geographic. 1999. Field Guide to Birds of North America. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Washington: National Geographic.



# **BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS FOR THE YEAR**

**2000-2001, October 11, 2000**

*by Mike Hamilton*

Some people don't know when to quit!

But seriously, I appreciate the opportunity to serve you one more (and last) year. In line with my original goals to 1) update and add to our database and publications, 2) get more use out of our existing database and publications, 3) be active in habitat protection, research, conservation and 4) work with and encourage young people to get them excited about birds, here are my thoughts for the coming year:

- Continue our current meeting structure with a program at the first meeting of the month and an open discussion at the second,
- Try to bring desirable program speakers from further away (we have budgeted some dollars for this),
- Conduct a shorebird count in August,
- Continue or increase our working support for Atlas 2000,
- Develop mission statements for the Conservation and Research Committees,
- Continue our work with NYS Parks to improve bird habitat on Goat Island,
- Continue support of the Niagara River IBA and help with the implementation of its Conservation Plan,
- Repeat our youth weekend next spring,
- Complete the BOS Annual Checklist,
- Complete the indexing of the past decade of the Prothonotary and
- Get the BOS logo on the letterhead (that is where it is supposed to be).

Below is a list of standing and special committees for the coming year. Officers and Council members are listed in the Prothonotary detail box on the second page of all issues. Please look this over and let me know if you are interested in working on any of these committees or would like to change from one to another. At our meetings there will also be copies of another sheet listing the same committees and providing a place for your interest, suggestions and/or comments.

Thank you and here we go into the new BOS year!

## **BOS Committees**

### Standing Committees

#### **Membership:**

Jim Landau  
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#### **Program:**

Michael Davis  
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#### **Budget:**

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Tom Burke, Chair  
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#### **Special Projects FAC:**

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Fran Rew  
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Richard Rosche  
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#### **Nominating:**

(to be announced)

### Special Committees

#### **Prothonotary:**

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#### **Prothonotary Indexing:**

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#### **Section Maps Update:**

Bob Andrlé  
Dick Collins  
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Terry Yonker





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Buffalo Museum of Science  
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## December & January 2000 Calendar

**Dec. 2: Niagara River** for waterfowl and gulls. Leader: Mike Morgante (683-4819). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sir Adam Beck Power Plant, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

**Dec. 13: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Members will briefly relate how they became interested in birding. A business meeting and a holiday social will follow with members bringing food and drink. The public is invited.

**Jan. 10: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Chip Weseloh from the Canadian Wildlife Service and Terry Yonker (BOS) will discuss Bonaparte's Gull research on the Niagara River.(tentative)

**Jan 24: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Informal discussion on a variety of topics.

### Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)

**Dec. 16: Beaver Meadow CBC.** Saturday. Compiler: Bill Michalek (457-3228; daytime).

**Dec. 17: Grand Island CBC.** Sunday. Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).

**Dec. 23: Oak Orchard CBC.** Saturday. Compiler: Steve Kahl (813-0081).

**Dec. 27: Niagara Falls CBC.** Wednesday. Compilers Willie D'Anna and Kayo Roy.

**Dec. 31: Hamburg/East Aurora CBC.** Monday. Compiler: Brendan Kick (839-1792).

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 66, No. 11 November, 2000

### THE MONTH: October

*by Bruce Chilton*

October's weather was basically benign, with none of the interesting windstorms that often bring jaegers and unusual gulls to the eastern end of Lake Erie. A summer-type pattern of precipitation, favoring hit-or-miss showers rather than general rains, prevailed for most of the month. The precipitation at the Buffalo International Airport was on the low side - less than an inch - whereas Vivian Pitzrick indicated that conditions in parts of the Southern Tier were a lot wetter. The precipitation in the hills south of Buffalo was in the form of snow during two strong cold waves, one coinciding with the BOS October count and the other at the month's end. The first one deposited up to six inches in some locations. However, the count day had a lot of sun, which rapidly melted the snow. Between the cold spells, the weather was mild and clear much of the time. The average temperature at the Airport was 52.6 degrees F., slightly above the 30 year mean for the month.

Vivian Pitzrick's report mentions that in Allegany County, at least, "wild food was abundant, especially mast, wild grapes, Gray-barked Dogwood berries and thorn apple fruits." Throughout the region, the cone crop appeared to be mixed. While White Spruces generally had an abundance of cones, some other conifers, such as White Pines, did not. A flock of White-winged Crossbills was seen in

Somerset Township on the 29th, raising hopes of an invasion of this species, which seems to prefer the White Spruce cones. Several movements of small numbers of Pine Siskins were noted also, the first on the 14th. A flock of 7 Evening Grosbeaks was seen by Don Harris in Eden on the 20th. Other than these, there were no reasons yet to have much hope that the coming winter would be a winter-finch one.

Waterfowl sightings were highlighted by the presence of a number of Canada Geese of the Richardson's race at and near the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. These birds, considerably smaller and grayer than the nominate subspecies, put in their appearance between the 15th and the 28th. The greatest number seen at one time was Mike Morgante's flock of 25 on the 19th.

In addition to the geese, there were two sightings of lone birds that were found to be Trumpeter Swans, on the 15th at Oak Orchard by Brendan Klick and Richard Sowinski, and on the 2nd in the Town of Newstead by Mike Morgante. Klick justified his identification by noting an all-black bill, straighter and longer than that of a Tundra Swan. Morgante noted a "pointed border at the base -of the bill, unlike the rounded base on Tundras." The observers all had the impression that the swan was unusually large, with long necks. Morgante, whose specimen was an immature, noted an absence of bands and tags.

Betsy Potter found a rare Black-headed Gull, presumably in migration, that was flying between 1/4 and 1/2 mile from shore over Lake Ontario, on the 22nd. Comparing it with some Bonaparte's Gull near it, she saw the larger size and the "heavier, slower wing flap." She was able to get several looks at the distinctive

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black areas on the underside of the primaries during the 45 seconds of observation

The 15th also presented Klick and Sowinski with another good species. Observing from the Mallard Overlook at Iroquois NWR, they found two Long-billed Dowitchers; in juvenile plumage. Klick gives a very detailed description, necessary to distinguish this bird from the very similar Short-billed Dowitcher, basing his identification on bill length, color and pattern of the upperparts and underparts, patterns of the scapulars and tertials, and head color. Especially distinctive was the call: "a series of two short, thin keek calls, very much different from the

louder, mellow tu-tu-tu call of the Short-billed Dowitcher."

In spite of the necessity of doing the October count in the middle of a cold wave, the count's results were good. There were several early arrivals. A Red-throated Loon and Brant were sighted on Lake Ontario. Two Tundra Swans put in an appearance in Clarence, and a third Swan, either Tundra or Trumpeter, turned up in Lancaster. Four early Buffleheads in Dayton, a Northern Goshawk in Newfane, two American Tree Sparrows in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and a Snow Bunting in Alabama rounded out the list of early birds seen on count day. There don't appear to have been any late-stayers, possibly because of the advent of cold weather.

## Breeding Clay-colored Sparrows in Allegany County, New York: A History and Perspective.

by Elizabeth W. Brooks

Prior to the late 1800s the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) breeding range was primarily confined to the northern Great Plains of North America (Knapton, 1994). By the 1950s however, an eastward expansion of its breeding range that began around the start of the 20th century, established Clay-colored Sparrow as a regular breeder in much of eastern Ontario and extreme southern Quebec, Canada (Knapton, 1994). This expansion was probably caused by the widespread clearing of forested lands, and their subsequent conversion to agricultural fields, thus creating suitable breeding habitat for the species (Knapton, 1994). Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) indicated that this species was a "casual, very rare transient visitor" in western New York prior to 1965. However, during the past 30 years, the Clay-colored Sparrow has become an established, but uncommon, breeding species in Allegany County of western New York (Levine, 1998), near the eastern end of Lake Ontario, and in extreme northern Franklin County.

The current breeding range of Clay-colored Sparrow in eastern North America is mostly confined to Canadian areas north of Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario, and the St. Lawrence Seaway (Knapton, 1994). In the eastern extremes of its breeding range are two isolated pockets of documented Clay-colored Sparrow breeding in New York State (Figure 1). One is in eastern Allegany County and the other is at the eastern end of Lake Ontario in Jefferson and Lewis Counties (Andrie and Carroll, 1988). A smaller cluster of breeding sites are located in northern Franklin County, presumably from expansion of the Ontario population. It is the breeding pocket in eastern Allegany County that will be discussed below.

Two early New York breeding records, one of them a mixed-species Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)/Clay-colored Sparrow mating near Ithaca (Bull, 1974) set the stage for the first documentation of breeding in Allegany County. The first Allegany county report of a breeding Clay-colored Sparrow pair occurred in a well-studied 9.3 hectare (ha) Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) plantation along Lake Road in the town of Alfred during 1970 (Bull, 1974). Since 1969, I have censused this plantation annually for breeding birds.

(continued on top of page 110)



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	<u>9F</u>	2	Somerset	Klick
"	19	10	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante, Yoerg
"	21	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
Common Loon	9	55	Somerset	Klick
Horned Grebe	1	2	Carlton	Klick, Sowinski
"	9	12	Somerset	Klick
"	15;26	1;2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
Red-necked Grebe	<u>9F</u> ;14	1;1	Somerset	Klick; Klick, Harris
"	22,29	5,2	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	15	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Sowinski
D.-crested Cormorant	1	1105	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	20	300	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Morgante
Great Egret	1;28; <u>31</u>	12;8;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Morgante; Klick
Green Heron	15L	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Snow Goose	19;26	2 wh.;2 wh.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante; Watson
Canada Goose	15;20	5;5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Sowinski; Klick
<u>B. c. hutchinsii</u>				
"	19	25	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	28	4	Somerset	Klick et al
Brant	<u>9F</u>	45	Somerset	Klick et al
"	14	1	Concord	Zebehazy
"	18	30	Wethersfield	D. Junkin
"	18	100	Niagara University	Broderick
"	19	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante; Yoerg
"	19,22;28	187,150;120	Somerset & Yates	Yoerg; D'Anna(BOS)
"	20;21	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Morgante; Watson
"	20;22	16;18	Hamburg Town Park	Rew; Zebehazy
"	21	32	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Harris
"	21	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
"	21	10	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	23	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
"	28	1	Tifft N.P.	Harris
Mute Swan	22	3 ad.	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	15	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	21	1 imm.	Newstead	Morgante, Martin
Tundra Swan	19F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	19F	2	Wales	Bee
Gadwall	20	219	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
American Wigeon	6,13	230,287	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	15	80	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
American Black Duck	1,26	21,27	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	26L	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Shoveler	1,26	90,65	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	1	42	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	20	327	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Green-winged Teal	13	680	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Canvasback	23F	250	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Redhead	1;15	1;2	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Klick et al
"	14	6	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	1,26	136,34	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Greater Scaup	1;15	1;6	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Klick
"	1	3	Olcott	Klick, Sowinski
"	9	27	Somerset	Klick
Lesser Scaup	14	95	Goat Island	Klick, Harris
"	15	58	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Sowinski
Surf Scoter	9,29	9,18	Somerset	Klick
"	19,29	10,9	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg
"	21	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
"	28	1	Shadigee	D'Anna(BOS)
Black Scoter	9F,14,28	5,6,2	Somerset	Klick
"	22,29	2,2	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg
Long-tailed Duck	9;19	8;40	Somerset	Klick; Morgante
"	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Bufflehead	19	20	Somerset	Morgante
"	26	7	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Goldeneye	9F,14	3,1	Somerset	Klick
"	15	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Hooded Merganser	29	65	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Merganser	15	60	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	1,26	403,1206	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	13,15	18	Oakfield	Klick
"	19	25	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	24	4	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	26	2	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
Osprey	18	1	Salamanca	LeBlanc
Bald Eagle	1,13;29	1,2;2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Yoerg
"	3,18	1,1	Salamanca	LeBlanc
"	14	1	Concord	Zebehazy
"	15	2 im.	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	28	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	18	1	Porter	Klick
"	22	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Ellicottville	Vallone
Merlin	19	1	Sturgeon Point	Harris
"	<u>28</u>	1;1	Somerset	Morgante; D'Anna(BOS)
"	<u>28,29</u>	1	Somerset	Klick
"	<u>28</u>	1	Yates	Klick
Peregrine Falcon	6	1	Alabama	Klick
"	14	1	Squaw Is., Buffalo	D'Anna, Potter
"	23	2	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	24	1	Buffalo	Burch
Virginia Rail	14	1	Almond	Brooks
"	17L	1	Springville	Holmes
American Coot	26	534	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson



<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-bellied Plover	16,20	16,7	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Amer. Golden-Plover	6	71	Alabama	Klick
"	14	4	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	15	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Sowinski
Greater Yellowlegs	19	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Lesser Yellowlegs	26L	3	Times Beach N.P.	Andrle
Spotted Sandpiper	10L	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Sanderling	19	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg
Semipalm. Sandpiper	15L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Sowinski
Least Sandpiper	15L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Sowinski
Baird's Sandpiper	1L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	1,26	7,1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	31	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Dunlin	19	4	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
"	20	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Morgante
"	21,31	31,6	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
"	22	2	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Zebehazy
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	15	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Sowinski
Common Snipe	19	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-necked Phalarope	6	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
* <u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	18	1	Porter	Klick
<u>Jaeger species</u>	9	1	Somerset	Klick
"	21	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
Little Gull	9;29	1;1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick; D'Anna, Potter
"	14	1	Squaw Is., Buffalo	D'Anna, Potter
"	28;29	1;1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna(BOS); Yoerg
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	22	1	Somerset	Potter
Lesser Black-b. Gull	14,27	1	Goat Island	Klick et al
"	23	3	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Common Tern	20	2	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Morgante
*Barn Owl	14	1	Holland	Harris
Long-eared Owl	19,21,23	1,1,2	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	18-31	20 banded	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
Common Nighthawk	2L	6	Egbertsville	Suggs
Red-headed Wdpkr.	14	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Klick, Harris
Eastern Wood-Pewee	9L	1	Goat Island	Klick
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	2L	1	Evans	Harris
Eastern Phoebe	18	2	Buffalo	Mueller
Northern Shrike	20F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	29	2	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	29	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Blue-headed Vireo	15	2	Allegany S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Portville	LeBlanc
Red-eyed Vireo	9,14L	1,1	Goat Island	Klick
Common Raven	3,15	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	8	1	Ward	Brooks
N. Rough-w. Swallow	11L	8	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Bank Swallow	2L	3	Evans	Harris
Barn Swallow	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	1	1	Somerset	Klick, Sowinski
Carolina Wren	1-31	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	14	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	25	1 banded	Wethersfield	D. Junkin
House Wren	14L	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Klick, Harris

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Marsh Wren	6	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Gray-cheeked Thrush	13L	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	16L	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	16L	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Klick
Hermit Thrush	19	1 banded	Wethersfield	D. Junkin
Gray Catbird	23	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Northern Mockingbird	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Pipit	26	100	Cambria	Yoerg, Henderson
Orange-cr. Warbler	2	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	8	1 banded	Wethersfield	D. Junkin
"	9	2 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J.Smith
"	20L	1	Boston	Harris
Nashville Warbler	21L	1	Snyder	Klick, Harris
Northern Parula	3	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Magnolia Warbler	20L	1	Boston	Harris
Cape May Warbler	4	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	18L	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J.Smith
Palm Warbler	1	2	Goat Island	Roberson
Blackpoll Warbler	17	1	Goat Island	Klick
"	18L	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J.Smith
Black-and-white Warb.	20L	1	Boston	Harris
American Redstart	4L	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Wilson's Warbler	2L	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Amer. Tree Sparrow	28F	2	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna(BOS)
Savannah Sparrow	19L	2	Yates	Morgante
Fox Sparrow	16	1	Snyder	Klick
"	19	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	19	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg
"	27	3	Tonawanda	Watson
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	9L	1	Springville	Holmes
Lapland Longspur	15F;21	3;6	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
"	19	20	Yates	Morgante
"	29	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Snow Bunting	29F	14	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	29F	35	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	20	Yates	Watson
Rusty Blackbird	24	700	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Brown-headed Cowbird	26	1000	Alabama	Watson
Purple Finch	31	1 banded	Wethersfield	D. Junkin
White-w. Crossbill	29F	19	Somerset	Klick, Harris
Pine Siskin	14F	1	Allegheny Reservoir	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	1	Allegany S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Klick
"	19	10	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	23,26	2,2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	29	12	Somerset & Yates	Klick, Harris
Evening Grosbeak	24F	7	Eden	Harris

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:** 277

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:** 2

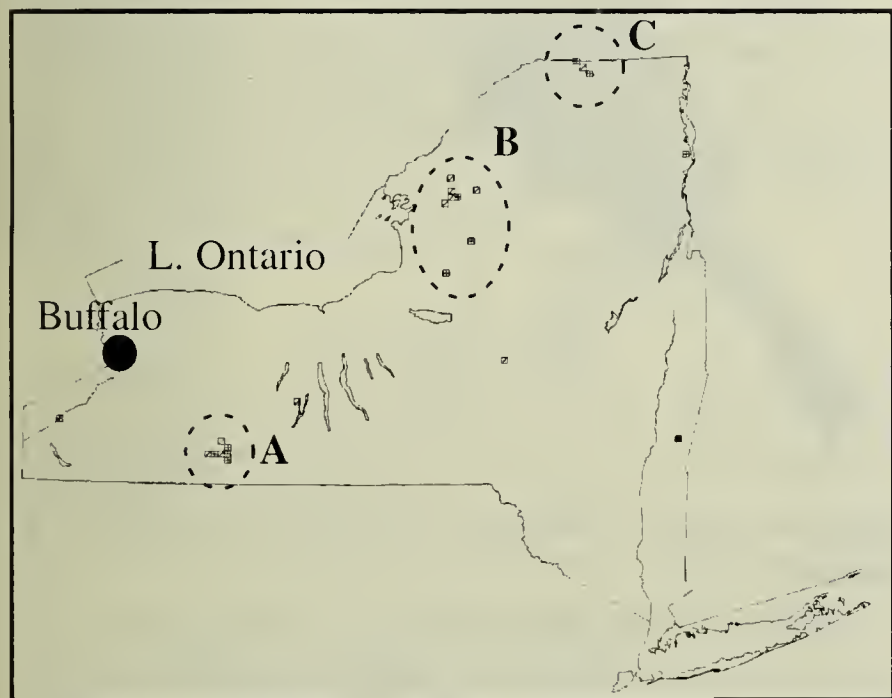
**Total for the year 2000:** 279

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



(Clay-colored sparrow; continued from page 105)

Allegheny County conifer plantations are the preferred nesting habitat for Clay-colored Sparrow, especially in the towns of Andover and Alfred. A well-documented nesting was reported in this plantation during 1971 (Brooks, 1971). In 1972, two territorial male Clay-colored Sparrows were located in the plantation, with one (unsuccessful) nest discovered. On 5 July 1972, Harold Axtell discovered an interesting mixed *spizella* nest involving a pair of Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*) and a male Clay-colored Sparrow (Brooks, 1980). The nest was located in goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), amidst young choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), at the edge of the plantation. The two birds that incubated, brooded and fed the young were a female Field Sparrow and a male Clay-colored Sparrow. The Clay-colored Sparrow, of normal plumage, sang both the typical territorial song of that species but also a deep, buzzy — but seemingly otherwise typical — territorial song of a Chipping Sparrow! Three young successfully fledged on 15 July 1972.



**Figure 1.** Clay-colored Sparrow breeding sites in New York State documented between 1980 and 1985. The squares represent 5 km. x 5 km. “blocks” having possible, probable, or confirmed breeding activity (see Andrle and Carroll, 1988 for details). Circled and dashed regions represent the relatively more concentrated breeding populations in (A) Allegheny County, (B) Jefferson and Lewis Counties and (C) northern Franklin County. A total of 23 “blocks” are shown on this particular map; 15 are within the areas (A) and (B) while 3 are within area (C); the 5 remaining sites are scattered across the state. Taken with permission from Cornell University Press, *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, edited by Andrle and Carroll, 1988.

After 1972, Clay-colored Sparrows were never again observed in this particular plantation. As the Christmas trees matured, they were selectively harvested and the remaining trees were allowed to mature. The habitat apparently became unsuitable for this species or, alternatively, increased human disturbance in the plot due to birders’ interest in viewing and photographing the two Clay-colored Sparrows, and the highly unusual interspecific nesting, may have contributed to the disappearance of these birds.

Not all records of Clay-colored Sparrows in breeding season are in young conifers. Vivian Pitzrick discovered a Clay-colored Sparrow during breeding season in an abandoned upland pasture in the town of Amity in 1970. In 1984 she observed Clay-colored Sparrows during June and July in three Atlas blocks located in the towns of Ward and Amity (Pitzrick, 1984). Only one of these sites was in young conifers. This is not too surprising, since this species prefers shrublands, thickets, second-growth areas and forest edges. At the heart of the Clay-colored Sparrow range (southern Canadian prairie provinces) this species reaches its highest density in the “low shrub communities” dominated by plant species such as aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), and American silverberry (*Elaeagnus commutata*) (Knapton, 1994). In New York, a relatively large acreage of early successional stage habitat is present, ideal for Clay-colored Sparrow, that has arisen from farmland taken out of production during the past several decades. Of course, as these young successional areas mature they will become unsuitable for the species’ needs.

In the late 1970’s, I began breeding season censuses of Christmas tree plantations, owned and managed by Tom and Cathy Kent, along McAndrews and Pingrey Roads in the towns of Alfred and Andover. At first, I covered just two plantations but by the mid-80’s I had increased the number of plots surveyed to 14 — all of which I attempted to visit at least once a week during each breeding season. An important factor in maintaining optimal Clay-colored Sparrow habitat on the Kent plantations is the regular Christmas tree shearing and their subsequent harvest before they exceed 4-5 meters in height. Conifers that exceed that height do not seem to appeal to Clay-colored Sparrows. A number of Clay-colored Sparrows were observed in the above



plantations during subsequent years and there probably were breeding Clay-colored Sparrows on the Kent plantations prior to the start of my coverage.

A synopsis of Clay-colored Sparrow records from these plantations is as follows: In June 1985, a breeding male was observed in a mixed conifer plantation along Pingrey Road. In 1988 and 1992, a territorial male was present during June in a section of Scotch Pine in a 10.7 ha mixed conifer plantation located just off Jones Road. In 1988, a male was heard on two dates in June and one in July in a Douglas Fir plantation along McAndrew Road. During the 1991 breeding season, one male was present in mixed conifers off Pingrey Road and another in a young spruce plot off Pingrey Road. In 1995, one male was heard in another mixed conifer plantation off Pingrey Road. The Douglas Fir plantation is in the town of Alfred, but the other plantations mentioned above are all in the town of Andover.

From 1997 to 2000, Clay-colored Sparrows have been summer residents in a 30 ha mixed conifer plantation located on the west side of Pingrey Road, near a 122 meter high radio tower. Two male Clay-colored Sparrows were present during the 1999 breeding season. One male seemed to be associating with a Chipping Sparrow in the northeast corner of the plantation and a second male was seen and heard in the southwest corner of the plantation, at least 400 meters from the other bird.

On 1 and 7 June 2000, I censused this plantation and heard the typical four or five note buzzy call of a male Clay-colored Sparrow. Since I had planned a visit to the same plantation for a field trip scheduled for 10 June, and seeing the Clay-colored Sparrows was a high priority goal for the field trip, I did not pursue the bird for a close study. On 10 June, the bird sang repeatedly, perhaps 20 times, for the people on the field trip, but it was very skittish and no one was able to get a look at it. It flew all over the plantation, rather than keeping to one particular section as it had formerly. On 28 June I extensively searched the plantation but neither heard nor saw a Clay-colored Sparrow. I did receive reports of birders who were able to track down the bird(s) in this plantation, some apparently by playing tapes. I think it is possible that people visiting this plantation created enough disturbance that the male became very secretive and elusive.

However, on 7 July I heard and got a brief look at a

Clay-colored Sparrow singing in a section of young Scotch Pine located on the NE corner of the plantation. On 20 July, I flushed a bird off a nest situated in this same area, 0.3 meter from the ground in a 2 meter Scotch Pine. The nest was a little bulkier and grassier than a Chipping Sparrow nest and contained two eggs that resembled Chipping Sparrow eggs but were slightly more elliptical and a little more intense in color than those of Chipping Sparrows. A bird sang the typical song of a Clay-colored Sparrow, off and on for 10 minutes, always within 30 yards of the nest. In good light, with 8x32 binoculars, I got a long look at the songster, who conveniently used a dead tree as a perch, making it easy to observe the plain breast, streaked brown back, and Chipping Sparrow size. However, there was no well-defined brownish auricular patch and the crown was rufous-brown with only a hint of a lighter colored median stripe. I puzzled over this bird for nearly 10 minutes,



at one time moving to a position behind the bird to get a better view of the back and crown. It seemed more like the basic (winter) plumage of a Chipping

Sparrow, and I wondered if this might possibly be a hybrid.

On 26 July, I again flushed a bird off the nest, which still contained just two eggs, but this time I got a good look at the female, who had all the field marks of a normal Clay-colored Sparrow including the dark crown with lighter median stripe and the brownish auricular patches. I spent five minutes in the area, but never heard a Clay-colored Sparrow song. The only *Spizella* that I heard in the area was a Chipping Sparrow, of normal plumage, that sang a typical, though perhaps buzzy than normal, Chipping Sparrow song.

On 2 August, the nest contained two 2 or 3-day old chicks. I did not hear any Clay-colored Sparrow vocalizing in the area. On 7 August, the two nestlings were well-feathered and I observed two Clay-



colored Sparrows, of normal plumage, in the vicinity of the birds, the male singing a typical song for a brief period. On 12 August, there was one dead young in the nest and no sign of the adults or the other nestling.

In perspective, since this particular plantation is not being allowed to mature beyond Christmas tree height, and harvested areas are being continually replanted with conifer seedlings, the habitat should be conducive to a long tenure for Clay-colored Sparrows. Of course, this also holds true for the other Christmas Tree plantations in western New York. Finally, since Clay-colored Sparrow breeding populations are still apparently expanding in Allegany County, there will likely be additional interspecific breeding activity between Clay-colored Sparrow and other *Spizellas* in the future.

### Acknowledgements

Appreciation to Cynthia Clements, Phil Foster, and Tom and Cathy Kent for permission to conduct research on their land. Special thanks to Clarence Klingensmith for his help in conducting habitat surveys in 1969 and 1998, and for his advice and encouragement through the years. And appreciation to Jack J. Skalicky for his helpful comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

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*pallida*, in three Atlas blocks, Allegany County" *Allegany County Bird Club News* 18(7): 85-87.

# Report of the 65th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 8, 2000

Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

## Weather Synopsis

On the morning of the count a low pressure area was located over Maine trailing a cold front that passed through Buffalo shortly after dawn. Although Buffalo reported only light rain, some areas, especially in the Southern Tier, experienced bursts of lake effect rain and snow just before and shortly after sunrise. Scattered rain showers were reported sporadically throughout the day downwind of both Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, but many areas also saw considerable sunshine. Temperatures remained in the 40's late into the evening.

### Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:20 am edt

Sunset: 6:45 pm edt

Time:	Weather:	Temp:	Dew Pt.:	Pressure :	Dir/Wind:	Remarks:
3:00 am	Cloudy	41	37	30.14	W 9	
6:00 am	Light Rain	38	36	30.14	NE 6	
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	38	37	30.15	NW 5	Cold front passage
12:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	36	34	30.20	NW 5	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	43	33	30.24	NW 8	
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	46	30	30.24	NW 13	
9:00 pm	Light Rain	43	30	30.24	NW 13	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

## LOONS - DUCKS

<b>Red-throated Loon</b>	1 (5)	Mallard	3,681
Common Loon	7	Blue-winged Teal	55
Pied-billed Grebe	157	Northern Shoveler	101 (10,13,23)
Horned Grebe	24 (4,5,6)	Northern Pintail	72 (8,13,23)
Double-crested Cormorant	2,671	Green-winged Teal	214
American Bittern	1 (10)	Redhead	2 (6)
Great Blue Heron	210	Ring-necked Duck	111
Great Egret	28	Greater Scaup	256 (2,3,7)
Green Heron	7	Lesser Scaup	638
Black-crowned Night-Heron	7 (2,11)	unspecified scaup	50 (2,4)
Turkey Vulture	149	Surf Scoter	3 (5,18)
Snow Goose	6 (4,17)	White-winged Scoter	92 (3,4,5)
Canada Goose	15,156	Long-tailed Duck	F 6 (5)
<b>Brant</b>	7 (3,4)	<b>Bufflehead</b>	F 4 (17)
Mute Swan (adults)	6 (3,16)	Common Goldeneye	4 (4,17)
Tundra/Trumpeter Swan	1 (12)	Hooded Merganser	23
unspecified swans	2 (10)	Common Merganser	75
Wood Duck	227	Red-breasted Merganser	33
Gadwall	41	Ruddy Duck	598
American Wigeon	141	unspecified waterfowl	128 (4,10,13)
American Black Duck	110		



## OSPREYS - COOTS

Osprey	5		Red-shouldered Hawk	6	(11,26,28)
Bald Eagle	1	(10)	Broad-winged Hawk	3	(1,28)
Northern Harrier	54		Red-tailed Hawk	207	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	26		unspecified buteos	1	(10)
Cooper's Hawk	13		American Kestrel	78	
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	1	(4)	Merlin	1	(4)
unspecified accipiters	2	(11,18)	Peregrine Falcon	2	(5,23)
unspecified falcons	3	(20,24)	Wild Turkey	123	
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	(5,10,23)	Common Moorhen	1	(10)
Ruffed Grouse	16		American Coot	181	

## PLOVERS - TERNS

Black-bellied Plover	71		Common Snipe	3	(13)
American Golden-Plover	84	(5,10)	American Woodcock	6	
Killdeer	465		unspecified shorebirds	2	(17)
Greater Yellowlegs	15		Little Gull	2	(9,11)
Lesser Yellowlegs	9	(10,13)	Bonaparte's Gull	333	
Spotted Sandpiper	1	(7)	Ring-billed Gull	9,733	
Sanderling	77		Herring Gull	669	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	(7,13)	Great Black-backed Gull	227	
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	7,18	Common Tern	3	8.20
Dunlin	4	(6)			
Black-bellied Plover	71		Common Snipe	3	(13)
American Golden-Plover	84	(5,10)	American Woodcock	6	
Killdeer	465		unspecified shorebirds	2	(17)
Greater Yellowlegs	15		Little Gull	2	(9,11)
Lesser Yellowlegs	9	(10,13)	Bonaparte's Gull	333	

## DOVES - SWALLOWS

Rock Dove	3,142		Northern Flicker	183	
Mourning Dove	1,859		Pileated Woodpecker	10	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	(11)	Eastern Phoebe	53	
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	(9,12,28)	Blue-headed Vireo	9	
Great Horned Owl	1	(12)	Red-eyed Vireo	3	(3,8,13)
Barred Owl	3	(25,28)	Blue Jay	1,715	
Belted Kingfisher	49		American Crow	4,895	
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	(5)	Common Raven	3	(24,28)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	37		Horned Lark	57	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	(9,11,14)	Tree Swallow	726	
Downy Woodpecker	235		Northern Rough-winged Swallow	17	(2,23)
Hairy Woodpecker	49		Barn Swallow	L 3	(13,20)
Rock Dove	3,142		Northern Flicker	183	

## TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	1,138		Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	(11,13)
Tufted Titmouse	67		Swainson's Thrush	4	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	75		Hermit Thrush	54	
White-breasted Nuthatch	159		Wood Thrush	1	(20)
Brown Creeper	46		American Robin	2,358	
Carolina Wren	5	(1,11,23)	Gray Catbird	36	
House Wren	7		Northern Mockingbird	18	

Winter Wren	32		Brown Thrasher	7	
Marsh Wren	2	(11,13)	European Starling	34,715	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	588		American Pipit	169	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	397		Cedar Waxwing	470	
Eastern Bluebird	213				
<b>WARBLERS</b>					
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	(24)	Blackburnian Warbler	1	(17)
Nashville Warbler	5		Pine Warbler	1	(9)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	(28)	Palm Warbler	39	
Magnolia Warbler	3	(13,17)	Blackpoll Warbler	1	(11)
Cape May Warbler	1	(5)	Black-and-white Warbler	2	(13)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3	(2,11)	American Redstart	L 1	(28)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	431		Common Yellowthroat	17	
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	11,20,24	unspecified warblers	5	10,13,20
<b>TOWHEES – HOUSE SPARROWS</b>					
Eastern Towhee	25		Field Sparrow	64	
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>	2	(2)	Vesper Sparrow	10	
Chipping Sparrow	396		Savannah Sparrow	41	
Fox Sparrow	1	(3)	Red-winged Blackbird	6,906	
Song Sparrow	840		Eastern Meadowlark	88	
Lincoln's Sparrow	7		Rusty Blackbird	39	
Swamp Sparrow	160		Common Grackle	3,887	
White-throated Sparrow	1,932		Brown-headed Cowbird	232	
White-crowned Sparrow	318		Purple Finch	50	
Dark-eyed Junco	399		House Finch	578	
unspecified sparrows	76	(10,17)	Pine Siskin	20	(5,16,28)
<b>Snow Bunting</b>	1	(5)	American Goldfinch	1,082	
Northern Cardinal	351		House Sparrow	1,729	
Indigo Bunting	1	(24)	unspecified birds	15	(2)

**Summary Information** – Total Species Observed ..... **160**  
Total Individual Birds Observed ... **110,935**

**Comparisons** – Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 65 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2000 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

NOTES:**Highest count since 1935:** Double-crested Cormorant, 2671 (20 X the ave.); Great Egret, 28 (14 X the ave.)  
**Lowest count since 1935:** Ring-necked Pheasant (4)  
**Highest count in past decade:** Rudy Duck (598), Peregrine Falcon (2 - only record in the decade), Black-bellied Plover (71), American Golden-Plover (84), Brown Thrasher (7), Palm Warbler (39), Common Yellowthroat (17)  
**Lowest count in past decade:** American Wigeon (141 – lowest count since 1973), Redhead (2), Great Horned Owl (1), Pectoral Sandpiper (3), Common Tern (3), Rusty Blackbird (39), House Finch (578)  
**First record for the past decade:** Snow Bunting (1)  
**Second record for the past decade:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1)



**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: **Susan M. O'Donnell**, **Thomas M. O'Donnell**
3. Wilson, NY: **Ken Cohen**, B. Ekhart, Jerry Farrell, Richard Sowinski, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth
4. Middleport, NY: Mark Schlacter, **Bill Watson**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Ted Bistany, Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Aron Kehlenbech, Sr., Aron Kehlenbech, Jr., Zeke Kehlenbech **Brendan Klick**, Bob Lipp
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple
7. Lowbanks, ON: **Edward Fuchs**, Jack Mansfield
8. Fort Erie, ON: Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Mandy Galas, Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Tammy Kelly, Debra Milleville, Susan M. O'Donnell, Thomas M. O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**
10. Akron, NY: Dr. Edward Crohn, Donna Deleon, Emma Deleon, Robert Deleon, John Filor, **Donald Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte, Robert Wagner, Paul Ziebarth
11. Buffalo, NY: **Michael Davis**, Jack Skalicky, Alec Humann, Mitchel Harwitz, Marjorie Harwitz, Jane Heyer, Margaret Stewart
12. Lancaster, NY: Ann Bauer, Marion Bee, Paul Fuhrmann, Tom Harper, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Ruth Phillips, Jr., Steve Taylor, Anne Vogt, Donna Wieand
13. Batavia, NY: Douglas Beattie, Kurt Fox, Tod Gerace, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Marie Johnson, Aron Kehlenbech, Sr., Aron Kehlenbech, Jr., Zeke Kehlenbech, Alice McKale, Dolores Seamans, **Gail Seamans**, Donald Thureau
14. Hamburg, NY: Lois Abbott, Robert Andrle, Ernie Baker, Ken Brandes, Myles Firey, Miles Firey, Jr., Phyllis Hansen, **Doug Happ**, Glenna Leous, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Marge Vogel, Margaret Wooley
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak
16. Angola, NY: Robert Andrle, Patricia Andrle, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Bert Schweigert**, Kathy Farnsworth, Tom Koopman
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Barbara Henderson, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Peter Yoerg
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Lucile Bailey, Roy Beilowitz, Faye Clancy, **Alice Evans**, Delores Gadevski, Lyle Hotchkiss, Dora Lilly, Joan MacEwan, Allen Mills, Jeanne Nevinger, Roger Nicholson, Michael Raybuck, Maxine Schembri, Elaine Smith, William Smith, Norbet Sylor, Roy Tullar, Mrs. Roy Tullar, Ann Voss, Jay Wilson, Mrs. Jay Wilson, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Elizabeth Cole, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Terry Mahoney, Terry Mosher, Lucille Neveau, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Doris Welch, Tom Welch
20. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Julie Heilman, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Jim Berry, Seth Berry, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Rosemary Angove, Len DeFrancisco, Julie Heilman, Linda O'Brien, Jean Pigman, Archie Richardson, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**, Cindi Van Nostrand, Roger Van Nostrand
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**
24. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Dr. Stephen W. Eaton
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Frances C. Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann Scott, Morris Scott
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russ Allen, Dan Babcock, Harold Babcock, **Doris Burton**, Estelle Cronauer, Fritz Cronauer, Audrey Dunham, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Helen Link, Vivian Pitzrick, Lillian Simons, Jake Strong
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Ellen Baker, Warren Bouck, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Elizabeth Brooks, Deb Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lu Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Cynthia Culley, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Mark Cushing, Luke Donius, Phyllis Dubriel, Ann Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, Pete Finlay, John Gradoni, Matt Hotchkiss, Sandra Hotchkiss, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, **Clarence Klingensmith**, Margaret Klingensmith, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Cathy MacDonald, Hoby Manrey, Ken McClure, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lennie Osgood, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Sean Phelan, Bob Pipal, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Danielle Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Laurie Roe, Nancy Rouse, Mary Shields, Pete Shields, Cathy Sorochin, Ron Sorochin, Terah Soule, Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart (Mrs. Bruce), Wilma Taggart (Mrs. Gordon), Abbey Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Evelyn Thomas, Linda Travers, Betty Warek-Fowler, Mary Lu Wells, Suzanne Wood

**Total Number of Observers:** 238



## **December & January 2000 Calendar**

**Today:** Please complete and forward all Atlas 2000 Summary forms to Richard Rosche.

**Jan. 10: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Chip Weseloh from the Canadian Wildlife Service and Terry Yonker (BOS) will discuss Bonaparte's Gull research on the Niagara River.(tentative)

**Jan. 13-21: (target date Jan. 14)** January Waterfowl Count. For additional information contact Bill Burch

**Jan. 24: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Informal discussion on a variety of topics led by Michael Hamilton.

**Feb. 14: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)

**Feb. 28: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Informal discussion on a variety of topics led by Michael Hamilton.

**Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271

**Please inform the editor of all announcements!!**

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Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: November

by Bob Wagner

November came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. During the balmy period, when temperatures reached a high of 66°F, a female (or immature?) Summer Tanager, presumably a sojourner from the South, was observed, from the 8th through the 12th, at the Tift Nature Preserve in South Buffalo.

William Watson, first to report it, took note of such diagnostic features as the "very long" bill and a "round crest" on the head. Sticking out of its beak was the abdomen of a dragonfly. Later, Willie D'Anna observed that it was feeding on the same fruits as some robins. He and Debbie Sharon noted the upper mandible of the beak was deformed at its tip and twisted down along the lower mandible.

More characteristic of November land birds on the Niagara Frontier were the reports of Northern Shrike, Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, and flurries of

Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins.

Notable among waterfowl were reports of 225 Brant at Golden Hill State Park on Lake Ontario by Brendan Klick *et al.* and 40 Red-throated Loons at Somerset on Lake Ontario by Michael Morgante, a Harlequin Duck at Niagara Falls by D'Anna, and a Red Phalarope at Dunkirk Harbor reported

by Klick, who also recorded 10 Richardson's Canada Geese at Ringneck Marsh in the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The latter, a Canada Goose subspecies, have the appearance of "miniature Canada Geese." The allure for waterfowl of the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant was again demonstrated with a recording there by Klick of a phenomenal 741 Ruddy Ducks, along with others that included 4 Brant and 80 Gadwall, on Nov. 4.

There was a gratifying variety of gulls for their annual November pilgrimage to the Niagara River that has become internationally renowned as the "Gull Festival," including California, Little, Sabine's, Black-legged Kittiwake, Iceland, Thayer's, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed. A Parasitic Jaeger was recorded on Lake Ontario at Somerset on Nov. 4 and at Fort Niagara on the 26th.

One or two Great Egrets lingered at the Iroquois refuge until Nov. 5 and a Peregrine Falcon at Niagara Falls, Ontario, was observed on the 25th.

There were Merlin reports late in the month from the University at Buffalo South Campus, where the species has been wintering in recent years. And Raven sightings persist in the Southern Tier, from Amity Lake as well as Allegany State Park.

Reports of the *Oreganus* subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco coincided with unleashing of a powerful lake effect snowstorm that crippled much of the Buffalo area on the 20th through the 22nd. Two of the western visitors were observed, by Karen and Jim Landau at Colden on the 21st and another at the feeder of Robert Andrie at Eden Valley from the 21st through the 24th.

The storm, known as "Chestnut" by the National

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Weather Service, was accompanied eerily by thunder and frequent lightning. It was "the most disruptive storm in the Buffalo area since the Blizzard of '77," according to the Weather Bureau's assessment.

"The dynamics were extreme," said the bureau report. "We had a very deep layer of moist and unstable air for this time of the year. There was no capping subsidence inversion, well aligned winds with little shear ... a very warm lake ... A compact but strong large scale low pressure system was bearing down on the region from the Upper Great Lakes. Aloft, there was a strong wave... crossing southern Ontario."

"... There was a large cloud area that

had optimum temperatures for dendritic snow crystal growth. As a result of the depth of the unstable layer and, tremendous thermodynamics and favorable microphysics, there was abundant lightning ... approximately every 5 minutes for 8 hours or more. ... In many respects this storm acted more like a wintertime flash flood..."

" 'Chestnut' ... should be used as a model for future study, not only for the unusual meteorological aspects... but for the critical timing... which led to a total paralysis of a metropolitan area of a million people."

Snowfall for the month was 45.4 inches including 24.9 inches on the 20th. The average for November has been 11.5 inches. The average temperature this November, 38.8°F, was 1.7°F below normal.

## The Fall Banding Season at Rock Point Provincial Park

by Jim Smith

The Fall banding season at Rock Point Provincial Park has to be considered a success when 3,506 birds of 83 species were banded.

My banding started on July 1, carried on through the official opening on July 15 and finished on Nov. 6 with a total of 100 days. Except for a few days of rainy weather and an occasional day needed for personal business the station was open six days a week being closed only on Sundays so that I could spend at least one morning home with my family.

I tried for a minimum of six hours of nets being open beginning at dawn. On only a few days because of other commitments we did close a little early. From about 15 July I had ten nets open. A record of birds caught in each net was maintained so that I can compare the effectiveness of each net location. One net, which I considered to be in an excellent location cutting through a dogwood thicket, proved, on the whole, only to appeal to me since only 148 birds or 4% of the season's total were caught in it. Leaving the net in place for the spring season will give a better idea whether it is truly ineffective in that location and so needs to be moved. I consider this first year experimental in relation to net location but in the second year I need to be satisfied since consistency of net location is needed for year to year comparisons.

Rock Point Banding Station is part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, a series of stations that extend from the Bay of Fundy to Vancouver Island. Supported by Bird Studies Canada, these stations ensure that migratory bird populations are adequately monitored from coast to coast. This means, however, that in addition to banding, a daily one hour census must be taken along a route which takes in as much habitat as possible. Unfortunately, because Rock Point Bird Banding Station is located at the extreme west side of Rock Point Provincial Park, the point itself, so famous for shorebirds, could not be included in my census route. In fact, the daily counts often resulted in far fewer species than the number being caught in the nets. This data combined with casual observations is combined with the banding data to make up a daily log sheet input into a program for Bird Studies Canada called Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Daily Estimated Totals.

(continued on page 124)



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	4	40	Somerset	Morgante
"	5	12	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
"	19	1	<u>Lewiston</u>	Klick(BOS)
"	27	5	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Pied-billed Grebe	15	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	17	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Horned Grebe	11	53	Sheridan	Klick, Harris
Red-necked Grebe	5	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Rew, Horbett, Walker
"	11	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Harper
D.-crested Cormorant	2	25	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	3	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	11	95	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	19	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick(BOS)
"	25	3	Niagara Falls	Watson
Great Egret	<u>3</u>	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	<u>4</u>	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante, Klick
"	<u>5L</u>	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rew et al
Black-cr. Night-Heron	9	3	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	12	1	Lewiston	Klick
Snow Goose	17	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Canada Goose				
<u>B. c. hutchinsii</u>	4,17	10,9	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Brant	4	2	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	4	4	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	5	12	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	5	225	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
"	27	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Lehman
Mute Swan	11	1	Stockton	Klick et al
"	11	1	North Collins	Klick, Harris
Tundra Swan	11	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	17	24	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	17	3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	19	7	Fort Erie, Ont.	Zebehazy
"	29	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Zebehazy
Gadwall	3	67	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	4	80	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	17	74	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
American Wigeon	4	70	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	11	45	Pomfret	Klick et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Black Duck	4	85	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Mallard	17	535	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Blue-winged Teal	3	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	9L	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson, D'Anna
Northern Shoveler	3	41	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4,17	155,37	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	8	4	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Northern Pintail	4,17	124,11	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Green-winged Teal	4,17	282,8	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	17	7	Concord	Zebehazy
Canvasback	4	11	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	7	542	Niagara Falls	Klick
"	11	11	Chautauqua Lake	Watson et al
"	25	1000	Niagara Falls	Watson
Redhead	11	4	Chautauqua Lake	Watson et al
Ring-necked Duck	3	15	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	7	255	Lewiston Reservoir	Klick
Greater Scaup	7,12	700,1060	Niagara Falls	Klick
*Harlequin Duck	23,24,26	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
Surf Scoter	2	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Black Scoter	26	2	Vineland, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Bufflehead	11	140	Chautauqua Lake	Watson et al
Hooded Merganser	4,17	48,97	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Common Merganser	3	43	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ruddy Duck	3;4	688;741	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Klick
"	11	180	Chautauqua Lake	Watson et al
"	12	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna et al
"	15	3	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	17	98	Oakfield	Klick
Osprey	<u>17L</u>	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Bald Eagle	3	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
"	25	1 ad.	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby
Red-shouldered Hawk	27	1	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc
Rough-legged Hawk	4	1	Oakfield	Klick
"	5	1	Yates	Klick
"	11	1	Mayville	Watson
"	17	1	North Collins	Zebehazy
"	30	1	Wales	Bee
Merlin	<u>19</u>	1	Whirlpool	Klick
"	<u>25</u>	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
Peregrine Falcon	<u>25</u>	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, Klick
American Coot	3;17	450;540	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson; Klick
"	11	340	Chautauqua Lake	Watson et al
Killdeer	13	5	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	20	1	Buffalo	Zebehazy
"	27	1	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc
Greater Yellowlegs	5;17L	2;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rew et al; Klick
"	17L	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
Pectoral Sandpiper	4	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick



<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	11L	1	Chautauqua Lake	Klick, Harris
Dunlin	4,17	6,4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
*Red Phalarope	11	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
* <u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	4	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	26	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Little Gull	5;13,14	3,1,2	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna, Potter; Bellerby
"	5	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	12;16	1;3	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Andrle; Klick
"	12	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	19	5	Lewiston	Klick(BOS)
"	25	3	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	13,14	2390,3740	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	20,29	10875,10150	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
<u>California Gull</u>	12	1	R. Moses Power Plant	D'Anna, Klick
"	19	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
"	30	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante
Iceland Gull	5,12	1,3	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	25	4 ad.	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Morgante
Lesser Black-b. Gull	5;12;30	2;7;8	Niagara Falls	D'Anna; Klick; Morgante
Glaucous Gull	12;25	1;1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna; Morgante
Black-leg. Kittiwake	<u>5</u>	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Potter, D'Anna
"	19	1	Whirlpool	Klick(BOS)
"	29;30	1	Niagara Falls	Potter; Morgante
*Sabine's Gull	18,21,24,29	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	19,25;28	1,1;1	Whirlpool	D'Anna, Potter; Bellerby
"	19	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25, <u>30</u>	2,1	Niagara Falls	Klick
Common Tern	21L	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Snowy Owl	21F	1	Jordan Harbor	Bellerby
"	23	1	Niag. Falls Airport	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Northern Shrike	4	4	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Common Raven	10,29	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	27	2	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc
Horned Lark	25	35	Pomfret	Mosher
Swallow species	9	1	Buffalo	Klick
Carolina Wren	4	2	Orchard Park(f)	Zebehazy
"	11	1	Chautauqua Lake	Watson et al
"	13	2	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	13	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	26	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Northern Mockingbird	4	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	12	1	Blasdell	Zebehazy
American Pipit	17	15	Barre	Klick
Yellow-r. Warbler	1,2	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	26	4	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
* <u>Summer Tanager</u>	8,9	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	9	1	Tifft N.P.	Sharon, Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9,11,12	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
Eastern Towhee	30	1	Darien(f)	Harper
Fox Sparrow	5	2	Portville, NY	LeBlanc
"	12	2	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna et al
"	23	3	Portland(f)	Mosher, Farver
"	25-30	1	Darien(f)	Harper
Dark-eyed Junco				
* <u>J. h. oregonus</u>	21	2	Colden(f)	K&J Landau
"	21-24	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Lapland Longspur	4	40	Oakfield	Klick
"	5	2	Yates	Klick et al
"	5	1	Royalton	Klick, Sowinski
"	23,25	2,3	Pomfret	Mosher
Snow Bunting	3;4	24;52	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Klick
"	5	25	Yates	Klick et al
"	5	20	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Zebehazy
"	17	16	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	19	1	Squaw Island, Bflo.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Wheatfield	Yoerg
Red-w. Blackbird	1-22	16 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	13	5	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Eastern Meadowlark	11	1	Chautauqua	Klick, Harris
Rusty Blackbird	4	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	4	9	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	13	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Common Grackle	21-24	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Brown-headed Cowbird	23	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Purple Finch	4	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Common Redpoll	5F	15	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
"	5F	19	Yates	Klick et al
Pine Siskin	5	1	Harmony	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
"	26	4	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 279**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue: 6**

**Total for the year 2000: 285**

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

Thayer's Gull	12,19	1,2	Adam Beck Hydro,Ont.	Klick
"	25	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick et al



*(Jim Smith; continued from page 119)*

Additional data is entered into another program called BandMaster, also developed by Bird Studies Canada. All data collected for each trapped bird is included in this program, including wing measurements, fat content, weight, net caught in, time caught, time released, date, species, sex and age. Not all of this data goes electronically to the central database but it is saved and may prove useful at a later time. My time on the computer amounted to between 15 and 60 minutes each day and postponing the work only took more time away from my Sundays.

I banded as a trainee for a number of years under John Miles and Rick Ludkin who have Master Banding Permits and run the other two stations for Haldimand Bird Observatory. This training has proved invaluable as it did prepare me in a basic way for running my own show. However, the daily decisions and the amount of information that you are expected to retain in relation to all aspects of the birds that you are handling is almost overwhelming and even with that earlier training I found each day to be a learning experience. With the steady influx in July of Yellow Warblers (207 that month, 285 for the season) through in October and November to 240 Ruby-crowned and 180 Golden-crowned Kinglets and 195 White-throated Sparrows, there were always things to remember about aging, sexing, beak color, ossification, feather molt, etc.

The Empidonax Flycatchers were always fun. They required more time than any other birds because of the amount of feather, beak, and tarsus measuring that is needed for identification of species. It was always great when I got a nice small wing chord with primary feather 6 emarginated. I could then stop measuring and put down Least Flycatcher. Willow and Alder Flycatchers were harder and required measuring primary feathers, tail feathers, beak length and width and in some cases tarsus and then using a scatter diagram -- even then often ending up with no decision and so listing the bird as a Traill's Flycatcher. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were easy once I caught a few. Again experience is a great teacher and before this season I had not handled very many of them. Often the Empidonax was left hanging until I had banded the easier birds. With the 118 banded in the season it wasn't long before I was handling them with much more confidence. My totals were: 47 Traill's, 32 Least, 21 Willow, 11 Yel-

low-bellied, 5 Alder and 2 Acadian. Other flycatchers were: 3 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2 Eastern Kingbird and 1 Eastern Phoebe.

Rock Point has always been known for its warblers. I had always birded the east side of Rock Point Provincial Park near the Look-out Tower. Until I was looking for a location for a banding station I had seldom been in the west side so it was a complete unknown as to what birds I might find in this area. The Fall Warblers proved to be good. Twenty-four species were banded comprising 816 birds or 23.3% of the birds banded. 285 Yellow and 104 Magnolia Warblers proved to be the big catches. I was surprised that only 65 Yellow-rumped Warblers were banded even if it was the fourth highest total. They were preceded by 72 Common Yellowthroat and followed by 59 Nashville. Species of special interest to me were the 2 Northern Parula, 1 Golden-winged Warbler, and 12 Orange-crowned Warbler. Others were in decreasing order of abundance: 55 American Redstart, 33 Wilson's, 18 Tennessee, 17 Blackpoll, 15 Northern Waterthrush, 12 Western Palm, 11 Black-throated Blue, 11 Chestnut-sided, 11 Canada, 9 Cape May, 6 Black-and-White, 6 Black-throated Green, 5 Ovenbird, 4 Mourning, 2 Bay-breasted and 1 Blackburnian.

Something interesting that was not predicted was the number of American Goldfinches that pass through Rock Point. Not only did they fly over but 833 flew into my nets. The reason for this was a combination of the spruce cones which were present along the strip of mature spruce that bisects the banding area and the niger feeder which I set out in front of one net. Birds feeding among the cone trees appeared then to notice the feeder. Sometimes over forty birds were trapped in that net at one time. It produced the majority but not all of the goldfinches. Clearly the niger feeder attracted them. This fall's experience suggests that the north shore of Lake Erie is a migration route for them. July saw 137 goldfinches caught, August 130, September 416, October 132





and November 18. Hatch year birds accounted for 52% of the birds caught with the first one being caught August 14. Only 93 birds were caught again at a later date and often it was after one or two weeks rather than only a few days. One bird was trapped that had been banded north of Guelph, Ontario in the previous year.

Other finches were represented by 4 Purple Finch, surprisingly few (11) House Finch (9 in July and 2 in August) and 1 Pine Siskin. The siskin, seen flying with American Goldfinches, was unusual in that it was in this area in July. It was not seen again and in fact no siskins were seen until November when a flock of about 20 visited the spruce cones. Purple Finches were trapped late in October. House Finch numbers were down in the other two Haldimand Bird Observatory stations in comparison with last year.

In July immature Swamp and Song Sparrows were difficult to tell apart without measuring wing feather and bill. The sparrows trapped were: 195 White-throated, 149 Song, 76 Slate-colored Junco, 74 Swamp, 21 Eastern White-crowned, 20 American Tree, 12 Lincoln's, 2 Field, 1 Fox and 1 Eastern Towhee. These sparrows comprised a good share (15.7%) of the birds banded.

The 14 Blue-headed Vireos were a treat to catch. With the striking white spectacles this bird is easy to identify. Other trapped vireos were: 25 Red-eyed, 20 Warbling, 9 Philadelphia, and -- special for me -- 1 Yellow-throated.

Other birds that I found to be noteworthy or interesting were 2 Carolina Wrens both caught in August as immatures, 24 House Wren and 33 Winter Wren, 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 10 Brown Creeper, 8 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker which had a nest in the area, 8 Downy Woodpecker and 66 Black-capped Chickadee. Some of the chickadees seemed to take delight in getting caught each and every day. Taking them out of the net is an experience and the birds' spirit and fight is admirable to see. They never stop pecking as long as you are working with them. I had whole family groups that I continued to see and catch all season.

In relation to pecking no account would be complete without a mention of the 26 Northern Cardinals which I dubbed pliers with feathers. Right along with the cardinals are the 13 Rose-breasted Grosbeak which not only can pinch but which attempt to

cut out a piece of flesh. Talons were the big worry with my 2 Sharp-shinned Hawk which nested in the area and kept the other birds more than a little worried. Quite often they hit the nets but because the nets are designed for smaller birds they would not stay stuck and would flap out. Along with physical injury comes being pooped on. The champion birds for this were the 33 Cedar Waxwings along with 25 European Starlings and the thrushes: 49 Hermit, 39 Swainson's, 35 American Robin, 17 Gray-cheeked and 3 Veery, all of whom like to eat berries. This produces a blue feces which dies hands, clothing, bird bags and anything else it comes in contact with. Cedar Waxwings seem to be able to aim but perhaps that is just my imagination.

A bird that has to be mentioned in relation to numbers is the 203 Gray Catbirds. Hatch-year birds were being caught into October but post-hatch-year birds disappeared around the beginning of September. The park is obviously ideal habitat for this species. For the loudest bird being removed from the net the Catbird takes the prize. It always sounds like it is being murdered and guests at the station were always most concerned about how this bird was being handled. It was little consolation to tell them, "They all act like this and it isn't anything I'm doing." The 34 Blue Jays tended to hold on like Chickadees and on occasion also made a racket when being removed from the net.

Other birds banded were: 1 American Woodcock, 2 Mourning Dove, 1 Yellow-shafted Flicker, all of which hit the nets more than a few times but seldom stayed stuck. Also surprisingly few (7) Brown-headed Cowbird, 14 Red-winged Blackbird, 8 Baltimore Oriole, 21 Common Grackle, and 4 Indigo Bunting. I did look at wing chord but counted 5 thrushes as Gray-checked/Bicknell.

By the end of March 2001 Rock Point Bird Banding Station will be up and running again to see what the spring season will bring.





## **Combined B.O.S and G.O.S. Trip to the Niagara River, November 19, 2000**

*by Brendan Klick*

Snow in Buffalo deterred all but a few hearty B.O.S members from arriving at the meeting place, Fort Niagara. Co-leader Bob Spahn and the Genesee Ornithological Society arrived promptly without incident. Birds at the Fort Niagara included a Red-throated and Common Loon and several common duck species. A large flock of Cedar Waxwings near the entrance to the Fort produced no Bohemian Waxwings unlike last year. The group proceeded to the Lewiston Ducks where at least five Little Gulls were observed. We proceeded to Sir Adam Beck Generation Station in Canada. We managed to find an Iceland Gull, two Thayer's Gulls and one first-winter Glaucous Gull. After the stop, confusion arose. The Rochester birders proceeded to the Whirlpool while the B.O.S. birders followed me down the service road. The Buffalo birders were treated to an immature Kittiwake. While at the same time, the Rochester birders were watching an immature Sabine's Gull at the Whirlpool. I saw neither. After reuniting at the Whirlpool, we continued upriver to the control gates above the falls. Three Lesser Blacked-backed Gulls and a California Gull were waiting for us. The California Gull was sleeping but woke to give most trip participants a short look at the bird's distinctive bill pattern. We proceeded to the Engineerium Building where we found two more Lesser Black-backed Gulls. We happily concluded the trip finding twelve gull species.

### **Call for Papers**

*by Editorial Staff*

About eight months ago, we included a short note in this newsletter asking for contributions from the BOS membership. A number of members and non-members have responded, to them we say, "thanks". We also want to reiterate a statement from this note: we are always in need of well-written, interesting, and timely articles for *The Prothonotary*. A goal is to include a feature article in each future newsletter. To accomplish this goal, your contributions will be needed. Possible article topics are bird identification challenges and techniques, species status reviews, field trip reports from personal experience or BOS

sponsored field trips, bird migration, breeding birds, bird song, reviews of the technical literature, bird-finding of our region (or elsewhere), and the history of the BOS. Of course, sketches, illustrations, and photographs will greatly enhance the written articles.

The following articles titles would be greatly appreciated for 2001:

1. An article(s) describing the hawkwatching activity at Hamburg and Ripley; Fran Rew has agreed to the former--thanks Fran.
2. Site guides to any of the superb birdwatching sites in the BOS study area. Possible sites: Iroquois-Tonawanda-Oak Orchard complex, Hunter's Creek Park, Deerlick Nature Sanctuary, Goat Island, etc.
3. Bird-banding reports for spring 2001.
4. Migrant traps in the BOS study area.
5. Breeding Bird Atlas.

..

We would prefer that all articles be submitted in an electronic format. If possible, please submit all articles in Microsoft Word rich text format (.rtf) on a floppy diskette to the editor or via an email attachment to skalicky@acsu.buffalo.edu. If you do not have access to a computer, please submit typed articles. These can be scanned to an electronic format. Technical papers will be peer-reviewed by one or two experts prior to final publication.

### **Proposed Membership Changes**

*by Thomas M. O'Donnell (Council President)*

In 1999, the Fellows of the BOS sent a letter to President Mike Hamilton recommending that the Fellow and Citation classes of membership be eliminated.

This recommendation was referred to the BOS Council, which reviewed it and discussed it over the course of several meetings. At its October 25, 2000 meeting, the Council voted to recommend that the BOS Constitution be amended to eliminate all classes of membership.

Amendments to the Constitution must be approved by vote of a majority of the Fellow, Citation and Active members present at two consecutive regular meetings of the Society. Proposed amendments reflecting this recommendation will be presented at the February 14 and 28, 2001 meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Buffalo Ornithological Society GRANTS for 2001**

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

**Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2001**

The Buffalo Ornithological Society makes annual monetary grants in support of:

**Grant Categories**

- 1. Ornithological studies and research projects
- 2. Projects such as bird habitat preservation and nesting projects
- 3. Funding for college undergraduate and graduate projects

**Eligibility**

Persons and organizations residing in the BOS study area dedicated to birds and their welfare.

- 1. Ornithological societies, bird clubs or groups in which bird concerns are an integral part
- 2. Individuals, both BOS members and nonmembers
- 3. College students including those attending out of area schools  
(Students must have a faculty sponsor.)

**Grant amounts**

- 1. Applicants may request grants up to \$700.00
- 2. The actual amount awarded will be recommended by the Special Projects Fund Advisory Committee based on funds available, proposal quality and monetary requirements of the project.
- 3. Requests may be made for continued funding of previously approved projects

**Project completion**

- 1. When the proposed project has been completed, the grant recipient must make a written report to the Society.
- 2. The grant recipient may be required to present or participate in a program on the subject before the BOS membership at a regular meeting.

**Application form**

Please use the form provided on the opposite side of this sheet and carefully follow the instructions.

Mail application to: Buffalo Ornithological Society-Special Projects Fund Buffalo Museum of Science Buffalo, NY 14211

\*\*\*\*\*



*Buffalo Ornithological Society*

## GRANT APPLICATION

Check one:    Organization \_\_\_\_\_    Individual \_\_\_\_\_    College Student \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone-Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work/School-(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Project proposal:** The proposal should have a title and be as detailed as possible, describing rationale, goals, methods, equipment, materials, personnel, schedule, etc. Type the proposal on a separate sheet and attach to this application.

**Project budget:** A separate itemized project budget should be attached to the application.

**Total amount requested:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Planned completion date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If this grant is approved, I (we) agree to make a full written report to the BOS describing in detail the results of the study or project. I understand that I may also be required to present the results before a regular meeting of the Society. If for any reason this proposal cannot be carried out, I will return all funds to the BOS.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### For Students Only

**Faculty sponsor:** Please attach a reference letter from your faculty sponsor verifying your ability to carry out the proposed project and verifying his or her commitment to oversee your work.

Faculty sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## February/March Calendar

**Feb. 14: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Michael Hamilton will present a program on Alaska Birding. *BOS membership change will be put to vote (see page 126).*

**Feb. 28: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Informal discussion on a variety of topics led by Michael Hamilton. *BOS membership change will be put to vote (see page 126).*

**Feb. - May: Hamburg Hawkwatch** (9 a.m.-??) Join the hawkwatch crew and help spot/tally the northward bound raptors. Volunteers welcomed. An official recorder will be present daily, weather permitting.

**Mar. 14: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)

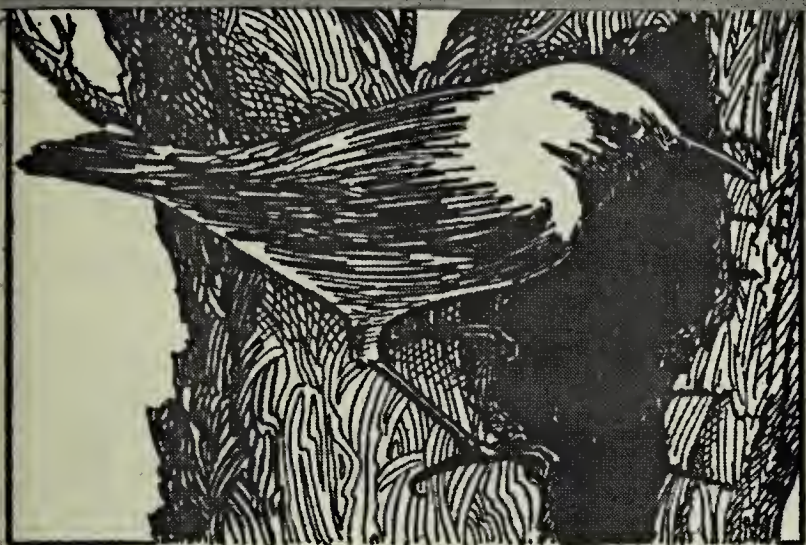
**Mar. 28: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Informal discussion on a variety of topics led by Michael Hamilton.

**May. 9: BOS Meeting** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.)  
Jim Smith {Rock Point Banding Station} will discuss his banding efforts.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 67, No. 1 January, 2001

### THE MONTH: December

by Joseph Thill

The cold and unpleasant weather that defined meteorological conditions on the Niagara Frontier during the last days of November continued to vex us in December. On December 2nd, the jet stream dropped across the Northern United States, bringing in its wake a ridge of high pressure circulating cold arctic air athwart the warm waters of the lower Great Lakes thus providing the atmospheric conditions that shaped our weather patterns until the end of the month. This weather maker dropped eight inches of snow on Buffalo and its northern suburbs on December 6th, which proved to be the only snowfall in the metropolitan area of Erie County that exceeded six inches in depth this month. Subsequently, the prevailing southwest winds that propelled this weather system shifted direction to the southtowns of the county and the adjacent Southern Tier counties where

the residents endured Lake Erie generated squall activity and snowfalls as an almost daily occurrence. At Mayville, in the County and Town of Chautauqua, snowfall measured 155.5 inches at month's end; at Stockton in the Town of Stockton, it measured 166 inches and in Sinclairville in the Town of Charlotte it measured 117 inches (*Buffalo News*). There were 26 days of

precipitation in the form of snow at Buffalo with a total accumulation of 50.3 inches, 26 inches above normal for the period; rainfall measured 3.76 inches, 0.9 inches above normal; the average high temperature for the month at Buffalo, 21 °F was seven degrees below normal; the 31% of possible sunshine at Buffalo was 4.1% above average: the temperature of Lake Erie at Buffalo dropped to 32 °F on the early date of December 31st! (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service Monthly Weather Service Summary for Buffalo, as posted on the Internet and the daily Weather Summary in *The Buffalo News*.)

The 'old fashioned winter' that settled on us with a vengeance in late November did not deter our stalwart observers in December which proved to be a banner month for bird-watching. On December 3rd, Brendan Klick and Don Harris reported a Northern Gannet in juvenal plumage flying west over Lake Ontario past the lighthouse at Golden Hill State Park in the Niagara County Town of Somerset. Klick, who is familiar with the species, easily identified the bird by its large size, long pointed wings and diagnostic flight pattern ("several shallow wing flaps and a glide"). He was also one of several observers who saw a California Gull in basic plumage in the lower Niagara River gorge on December 10th. The bird was observed both in flight and sitting on the roof of the Robert Moses Power Facility on the American side of the river. The discovery marks the ninth consecutive year that at least one California Gull has appeared on the Niagara River.. This month many observers enjoyed the presence of a juvenal Sabine's Gull which was in the gorge of the lower Niagara River from November 18th until December 6th. On December 10th, the indefatigable Brendan Klick was scanning waterbirds

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | <b>The Month</b><br>by Joseph Thill                                |
| 3  | <b>Noteworthy Records</b><br>by Michael Morgante                   |
| 6  | <b>10th Annual Vaughan<br/>Lecture Series</b>                      |
| 7  | <b>Hamburg Hawk<br/>Watch Report 2000</b><br>by Frances Rew        |
| 8  | <b>Ripley Hawk Watch<br/>Report 2000</b><br>by Leonard DeFrancisco |
| 10 | <b>Calender</b>  |



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2002-2003	Bill Bogacki Mike Galus Jane Heyer

on Lake Ontario at Olcott Beach in the Town of Newfane in Niagara County when he saw an alcid in his spotting scope which he described as "short, stubby and neckless" in body configuration with extremely fast "blurred" wing beats. Unfortunately Klick could not discern other field marks before the bird flew further down the lake and settled in the water too far away for further study. Based on his estimate of its size, he feels it was either a murre or a Razorbill.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, there were a surprising number of half-hardy and late migrants. On December 17th, in the course of his participation in the BOS Christmas Bird Count, Bill Watson found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in

the company of a flock of American Tree Sparrows foraging in a brush-covered embankment in Niawanda Park in North Tonawanda. On December 27th, Mike and Mark Morgante, while participating in the Niagara Falls CBC, found a second Ruby-crowned Kinglet in the company of a flock of chickadees in a mixed woodlot near the Lake Ontario shore in the Town of Porter in Niagara County. Later that day the Morgantes were continuing this count in a primarily coniferous woodlot in the Bond Lake County Park in the Town of Lewiston in Niagara County where they were attracted by a bird's call note they did not recognize. They found it to be a wintering Pine Warbler in a guild of chickadees, woodpeckers and nuthatches.

Earlier in the month, on December 1st, BOS member

Kayo Roy of Fonthill, Ontario reported a Harris's Sparrow, a "rare vagrant" in our region at a residence on McNab and Church Roads in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario. On December 3rd Willie D'Anna and Gordon Bellerby went to the scene and found the bird, in first basic plumage, skulking in shrubbery near a feeder. Subsequently, many birders from Ontario and New York State saw the Harris's Sparrow, usually in the company of a small wintering flock of White-crowned Sparrows.

A Dark-eyed Junco of the subspecies *J. h. oregonus*, was reported in these pages as being present at Bob Andrie's feeder on the Mill Road in the Town of Eden between November 21st and 24th; it apparently returned to that location on December 1st where it was observed daily until the end of the month, feeding for the most part on the ground beneath the feeder. Male birds of this subspecies are easily recognized by their conspicuous black hood, sharply demarcated against the brown mantle and flanks.

Finally, of great interest is the small wintering population of Merlins reported by Peter Yoerg on the Main Street campus of the University at Buffalo where he observed up to four of these falcons in the late afternoon hours over a four day period in December. Yoerg's observations took place on the south campus of the university between Hayes Hall and the Clark Gymnasium where the birds were observed in flight and also perched in mature stands of Red Pine, *Pinus resinosa*, bordering the area. Due to the late hour of his observations, conditions were not conducive to seeing these falcons in the best light to describe their plumage in great detail; but Yoerg, who is familiar with the species in the field, was able to note the heavily streaked brownish color of the breasts and brown backs of the birds as well as their call notes while flying around the perimeter of the campus in the gathering dusk. He believes that all of the birds he saw were adult female Merlins; the field work was conducted in the same general vicinity where the first wintering Merlin to be discovered on the Main Street Campus was reported by Ellen Schopp on January 14th, 1991. This bird was subsequently reported by Dave Suggs and other BOS members until March 7th of that year; nine months later he saw two Merlins on the campus, one of which was seen daily until March 13th, 1992. Between January 5th, 1993 and December 21st, 1999, 22 more records of individual birds were published in the "Noteworthy Records" section of *The Prothonotary* all emanating from the observations of

(continued on page 6)



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	1	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
"	15	11	Olcott to Porter	Morgante
Common Loon	15	1	Lewiston	Morgante
Horned Grebe	3	11	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	15	10	Olcott	Morgante
* <u>Northern Gannet</u>	3	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick et al
D.-crested Cormorant	3	3	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	21	1	North Tonawanda	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2,20	2,1	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby
Snow Goose	27	2 bl.	Porter	Morgante
Mute Swan	15	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
Tundra Swan	4	127	Ridgeway, Ont.	Hamilton
"	10	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Schlacter
"	15	19	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	30	2	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Wood Duck	10	1	Wilson	Fox
Green-winged Teal	3	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Canvasback	10	2000	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
Harlequin Duck	2,3	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
Surf Scoter	3	1	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	10	3	Olcott	Klick
Black or Surf Scoter	27	1	Porter	Morgante
Long-tailed Duck	15	10	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	21	505	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Klick
"	3	1	Somerset	Klick
"	17	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	1	Cuba	Pitzrick
"	27	4	Porter	Morgante
"	30	1	Yates	Fox et al
Merlin	<u>20,27,28,29</u>	2,2,3,4	Buffalo (UB)	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	<u>23</u>	2	Statler Towers, Bflo.	Burch
Purple Sandpiper	10	1	Jordan Harbour, Ont.	Niskanen et al
Dunlin	3,10	1,1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna
Little Gull	1;15	1;1	Lewiston	Klick; Morgante
Bonaparte's Gull	9,18	11880,4295	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
California Gull	10	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna, Klick et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	15	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Morgante
"	21	1	Wilson	Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Glaucous Gull	27	3	Porter	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Sabine's Gull	<u>1</u>	1	Whirlpool	Klick
"	<u>2,3</u>	1	Whirlpool	D'Anna et al
"	<u>2,6</u>	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	<u>3</u>	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Bellerby
* <u>Alcid species</u>	10	1	Olcott	Klick
Snowy Owl	9;10;21	1	Niag. Falls Airport	D'Anna; Yoerg; Fox
"	26	1	Arcade	Taylor et al
"	30	1	Yates	Fox et al
Long-eared Owl	27	4	Porter	Klick, Sowinski
Short-eared Owl	9	10	Niagara	Broderick
"	10	2	Shelby	Fox
Northern Shrike	2	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	2	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Klick
"	16	2	Sheldon	Klick, Sowinski
"	23	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante
"	27	2	Porter	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	30	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
"	31	1	Newstead	Yoerg, Henderson
Carolina Wren	2	1	Angola	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Winter Wren	3	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	27	2	Porter	Klick, Sowinski
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	<u>27</u>	1	Porter	Morgante
Eastern Bluebird	2	5	Chautauqua	Mosher
"	4	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle
"	10	3	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Klick
"	27	4	Bond Lake Park	Morgante
"	27	2	Porter	Klick, Sowinski
Hermit Thrush	22,24,29,30	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
American Robin	21	75	Wilson	Klick
"	27	105	Porter	Klick
* <u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	2	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Yellow-r. Warbler	9;27	2;6	Porter	D'Anna; Klick
"	9	1	Bond Lake Park	D'Anna
"	23	16	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante
"	30	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
Pine Warbler	<u>27</u>	1	Bond Lake Park	Morgante
Eastern Towhee	1-31	1	Darien(f)	Harper
Savannah Sparrow	<u>2</u>	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Swamp Sparrow	4	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	23	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Morgante
"	27	2	Porter	Morgante
* <u>Harris's Sparrow</u>	3	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna
"	5	1	St.Catharines, Ont.	Hamilton
White-cr. Sparrow	2	31	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Klick
Dark-eyed Junco				



<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	1-31	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Lapland Longspur	21	6	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Snow Bunting	2	10	Pomfret	Mosher
"	16	15	Java	Klick, Sowinski
"	31	75	Newstead	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-w. Blackbird	25	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle
Eastern Meadowlark	21,30	3	Ridgeway	Fox
Common Grackle	1-31	3	East Aurora	Vogt
Brown-headed Cowbird	13,22	77,37	Kenmore	Thill
"	25	75	South Park, Bflo.	Andrle
"	31	3	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	31	1	Orchard Park	Klick
Purple Finch	27	1	Porter	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Pine Siskin	3	1	Somerset	Klick, Harris
Evening Grosbeak	14	1	Alexander	Fox

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 285

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue: 3

Total for the year 2000: 288

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

### Addenda

1999				
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	12/26	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	12/29	2	Allegany State Park	Baird
American Pipit	<u>12/18</u>	1	Java Township	Zebehazy et al
Pine Warbler	<u>6/6</u>	1	Allegany State Park	Klick

2000				
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	5/27;5/28	1;2	Motor Island	Galas et al
Surf Scoter	1/30	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers et al
Ruddy Duck	<u>1/30</u>	3	Dunkirk Harbor	K. Landau
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	1/16	2	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird et al
Stilt Sandpiper	8/24	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
Little Gull	1/29	2	Dunkirk Harbor	T. Mosher
<u>California Gull</u>	1/16	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Roy et al
Short-eared Owl	4/25	1	Wales Township	Bee
Northern Shrike	1/22,1/29	1,1	Pomfret Township	Moshers
Pine Warbler	<u>1/7</u>	1	Fredonia	T. Mosher
<u>Lark Bunting</u>	4/29	1	Alabama Township	Roy et al
Orchard Oriole	5/7	1	<u>Tifft Nature Preserve</u>	Galas et al



*(The Month; continued from page 2)*

Ellen Schopp, Dave Suggs and Peter Yoerg on the Main Street Campus. The number is deceptive as the three observers were in many instances probably recording the same birds at different times on different dates. Upon consulting the literature concerning the migratory habits of this falcon, Yoerg advised that he favors the view of William S. Clark, coauthor of "A Field Guide to Hawks North America" (1997). Clark describes the birds wintering in the lower latitudes of Northeastern North America as "Taiga Merlins", summer residents of the boreal forests of Northern Ontario and Quebec and the Appalachian Uplands of Northeastern North America. He describes the species as "highly migratory" and it has been recorded wintering in areas of the Great Lakes States where it subsists on sparrows and other passerines.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Bob Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Dick Miga, Gerry Rising, Dave Suggs, and Peter Yoerg in the preparation of this article.

### **Tenth Anniversary Vaughan Lecture and Bird & Buffet**

The late William C. Vaughan (1917-1990) was one of the most popular instructors of birding classes and leaders of natural history tours at the Museum of Science. Also a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society for 58 years, his passion for educating others about birds is now commemorated by an annual lecture in ornithology. These lectures have featured renowned speakers such as Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne and Roger Tory Peterson. This year's lecturer is Dr. Stephen Kress (see information below).

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Vaughan Memorial Lecture, there will be a celebration benefiting Tifft Nature Preserve. Tifft wetlands, thickets and woods are attractive to both migrating and nesting birds. The Preserve was one of Bill's favorite destinations for studying and observing birds.

A Bird & Buffet will be held at the Museum on Wednesday, April 25 at 6 pm. As a special treat, Lois Vaughan, one of Bill's five children and a professional pianist from Newport, Rhode Island, will play jazz classics. The lecture is at 7:30 pm with a reception following. Reservations for the Bird & Buffet are \$20 per person. There is no charge or reservation for the Vaughan Lecture.

Reservation for the Bird & Buffet on Wednesday,

April 25, at 6:00 pm, including dinner accompanied by jazz musician Lois Vaughan are requested. Please include your name, address, city, state, zip code, and number of reservations (\$20.00 per person).

If interested in attending the Bird & Buffet, please include a check or money order or charge your credit card with the following information:

\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_ AmExp

Card Number:

Expiration date:

Name on card:

Signature:

Please respond by April 20.

The lecture at 7:30 pm is open to the public and requires no reservation or charge. Please return completed form with payment to Michelle Rudnicki, Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway Buffalo, NY 14211.

### **Vaughan Memorial Lecture: Dr. Stephen W. Kress Restoring Endangered Seabirds: Lessons from Puffins, Terns, and Petrels Wednesday, April 25 7:30pm**

Dr. Stephen Kress illustrates why seabirds such as puffins, murres, gannets and terns require management to encourage recolonization. He reviews the successes of this widely acclaimed program, and discusses how his Audubon team developed techniques for restoring bird colonies. Using the Dark-rumped Petrels of the Galapagos Islands as an example, Dr. Kress shows how techniques developed on the Maine coast can benefit other endangered seabirds.

Dr. Stephen W. Kress is Vice-President for Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society and Manager of the Society's Maine Coast Seabird Restoration Program.





## Hawk Watching in Western New York

Western New York is a fantastic place to view the springtime spectacle of hawk migration. Thousands of migrants pour through our region each year on their northward journey, including hawks, vultures, eagles, falcons, and accipiters. When the north-bound birds encounter large bodies of cold water, like the Great Lakes in springtime, they usually adjust their flight paths, following the strip of land close to the lake, where the warm updrafts are much stronger than those over the lake, *i.e.*, warm air updrafts are not generated over large bodies of *cold* water. Under favorable conditions, the lake escarpment can also contribute to this updraft by deflecting ground wind upward. This considered, it should be clear that the best springtime hawk watch sites will be situated near the southern shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Two such located Western New York Hawk Watch sites have been monitored for much of the past two decades: the Ripley Hawk Watch in the town of Ripley and the Hamburg Hawk Watch in the town of Hamburg. Below are the year 2000 reports from these sites as presented by their long-time coordinators: Frances Rew, Hamburg Hawk Watch and Leonard DeFrancisco, Ripley Hawk Watch. Of course there are other hawk watch sites in western NY and Ontario that are not discussed here.

## Hamburg Hawk Watch 2000

by Frances Rew

In 1999 between March 6 and May 6, 5951 hawks were counted at the Hamburg Hawk Watch. There was coverage on only 25 days and hours logged were 93, well below the average for this site. In contrast, 2000 was a very good year. Coverage was increased to 50 days, hours to 217.5 and raptors counted to 11,229. This improvement is the direct result of greater participation by members of the B. O. S. and others who contributed their time throughout the season on good days and bad. During the 2000 season we had hoped to find volunteers who could dedicate one day each week to hawk watching and we did succeed in having all Wednesdays covered by Gerry Rising, Mike Galas, and Bill Watson. Bob Andrie was a regular several days a week and Jim Landau came on almost all his days off from work. Barbara Walker's lunchtime relief was also most welcome. Weekends presented no coverage problem particularly if the weather cooperated by providing good winds and warm temperatures. Thanks are certainly due to the many watchers who came and stood or sat with us for many days throughout the season. Their help added greatly to the count and the socialization on slow days was always pleasant.

### Hamburg report for the year 2000:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Peak Day &amp; No.</u>		<u>Range of Dates</u>
BV	1				2/29	1	2/29 1st record
TV	34	3456	1221	185	3/25	1595	2/24-5/8
OS		4	78	16	4/27	23	3/27-5/8
BE	1	9	4	3	3/7, 3/15	2	2/26-5/6
NH		10	35	7	3/8	5	3/8 -5/6
SS	4	135	567	171	4/24	175	2/24-5/8
CH		22	36	4	4/19	10	3/8-5/5
NG		1	3		4/24	2	3/20-4/24
RS	1	191	16	1	3/8	44	2/29-5/8
BW			3119	266	4/24	1697	4/14-5/8
RT	108	907	244	154	3/8	122	2/26-5/8
RL	5	16	18	1	4/14	6	2/26-5/3
GE		1	1	1	3/13, 4/9, 5/1		3/13-5/1
AK		19	57	5	4/24	24	3/8 -5/6
ML			3		4/24, 27, 30		4/24-4/30
PG				1	5/2	1	5/2
UR	1	60	14	12			
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>155</u></b>	<b><u>4831</u></b>	<b><u>5416</u></b>	<b><u>827</u></b>			



Again this year there will be watchers at Lakeside Cemetery, Camp Road (Rte. 75), Hamburg, NY starting on the first warm, sunny day in mid- to late-February. **Volunteers are needed.** Last year we had generally good coverage during the morning hours but had limited or no coverage after 2:00 p.m. This year we would like to increase the number of days and hours, particularly in May. Coverage stopped on May 8th last year and there were several good flight days later in the month. Unfortunately, hawks lose some of their appeal when warblers arrive. If you can give a day or half day a week or any specific days to covering the hawk watch this Spring, please let me know so that times can be scheduled. We realize that our location is not a premier site, lacking an escarpment to the east. This permits the birds to pass on a broad front, many out-of-range over the urban and industrial areas to the northeast. But last year proved that with increased coverage we can make a significant contribution to the knowledge of hawk migration through our area. Not every birder is hooked on hawks, but if you are, please come and join us this Spring.

### **Ripley Hawk Watch 2000** by Leonard DeFrancisco

A warm February resulted in five new month records. The total number of raptors recorded was a new high of 266 individuals. The earliest ever Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk were recorded on February 22 and 26, respectively. The single day February tally of Red-shouldered Hawk was another record. Finally, the earliest Merlin on record was recorded February 27. Not a bad start for the season.

On March 4, a Black Vulture fly-by became our 2nd record since 3/17/97. On March 25, Melvin Freeborough, the day recorder, along with many others logged in 2215 Turkey Vultures for a new one-day record total. The previous record was April 3, 1995, when 1538 Turkey Vultures were recorded.

April was one of our wettest in many years and began rather slow. A well-equipped group of Amish men visited us April 15th, and they observed 345 raptors of 13 different species plus a Short-eared Owl. April 23 (Easter Sunday) brought north and northwest winds but we counted raptors. Broad-winged Hawks totaled 5405 for the day. The kettles

and streams were spread out over a 3-mile front. Radios provided by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute helped us track and count this flight. On April 27, another day with NE and NW winds, 4760 raptors of 16 species were observed, including a light morph Swainson's Hawk. By the end of April, 15141 raptors were logged, making up for the snow, rain and fog of early April.

May was a particularly exciting month. On May 2, a lone adult Krider's Red-tailed Hawk circled over us near the Lake Erie shore, giving us an excellent view of this very whitish bird. On May 7, 1:40 'Bird Time' Sally Freeborough called out, "a bird coming." Since this was the only bird up, everyone got on it. As it came over the tree line it veered NE and flared open as it slowly curved upwards, giving all a great underside view. Len DeFrancisco called out, "Long tapered wings, white head, white body, long black and deeply forked tail, an adult Swallow-tailed Kite." As the kite slowly tilted downward, it gave us views of the complete upperside. Melvin Freeborough, Martha "Chip" Neel, and Celia DeFrancisco, Len's wife, all stayed on this rare and graceful bird until it went out of sight. Then the yelling and shouting started with some jumping for joy at this great sight. Chip Neel had seen 25-30 Swallow-tailed Kites in Florida, but it was the first for all of the rest. On April 10, 1926, a 17 year old boy named Roger Tory Peterson and Clarence Beal saw a lone American Swallow-tailed Kite at the "out-let" near Jamestown, New York. Seventy-four years later we viewed the second Swallow-tailed Kite ever seen in Chautauqua County and Western New York. The old saying is, "You have to be there to see them." Thank God we were there. Four people who put in the most hours at the Watch deserved to see this spectacular raptor.

New all-time yearly record highs were: 11 Northern Goshawk; 30 Peregrine Falcon; 38 Merlin; 15 Sandhill Crane.

Most observer hours at the Ripley Hawk Watch: Len DeFrancisco, 253; Sally and Melvin Freeborough, 119; Martha Neel, 97; Michael Ceci, 76. A total of 239 hours logged by 10 other observers was also deeply appreciated.

Coverage during the 2001 season may be much poorer than the previous years. I will be counting in April but not March, nor will I be the official 2001 recorder. This is an opportunity for someone new to



### Ripley report for the year 2000:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Total</u>
BV		1			<u>1</u>
TV	55	3997	1422	195	<u>5669</u>
OS		4	135	51	<u>190</u>
BE	3	9	12	17	<u>41</u>
NH	22	31	150	29	<u>232</u>
SS	17	112	881	184	<u>1194</u>
CH	3	34	70	13	<u>120</u>
NG		2	9		<u>11</u>
RS	36	199	49	5	<u>289</u>
BW			11557	1469	<u>13026</u>
SW			1		<u>1</u>
RT	91	304	494	149	<u>1038</u>
RL	27	7	39	7	<u>80</u>
GE		1	3	4	<u>8</u>
AK	6	38	200	37	<u>281</u>
ML	1	5	19	13	<u>38</u>
PG			18	12	<u>30</u>
SK				1	<u>1</u>
Unidentified Buteo	5	32	75		<u>112</u>
Unidentified Raptor			7	54	<u>61</u>
<b><u>Totals:</u></b>	<b><u>266</u></b>	<b><u>4776</u></b>	<b><u>15141</u></b>	<b><u>2240</u></b>	<b><u>22423</u></b>
Watch Days	7	23	24	17	71
Watch Hours	30.9	99.7	122.6	86.9	340.1
Observer Hours	43.3	244.7	410	181.8	879.8

take over and continue the records. **Volunteers are needed.** Whatever the outcome regarding observers, at the minimum I will put up signs on April 1 identifying the different sites at the watch.

If readers are interested in helping with the Ripley Hawk Watch 2001 please contact Leonard DeFrancisco, Recorder and Coordinator, Ripley Hawk Watch, 405 W. Everett Street, Falconer, NY 14733-1647; phone, (716) 665-4999; email (c/o Michael Ceci) msceci@cecomet.net. The Ripley Hawk Watch is located on the south shore of Lake Erie, about 60 miles west of Buffalo, NY and 20 miles east of Erie, PA. There are six



sites located on private property in a lake plain between the lake edge and a terminal moraine about two miles inland. A list of these sites and a map can be obtained from the editor or Leonard DeFrancisco.

### **!!Volunteers Needed!!**

Volunteers are needed to mentor/guide youngsters at Tifft on BOS's "Free Birding Adventure" at 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1, 2001. This was well attended last year in spite of poor weather. It's easy and satisfying to teach kids bird ID in the field.

We also need a few people for morning long field trips by bus to local hot spots on May 11, 2001, to guide an expected 50 youngsters attending 4th Biennial Great Lakes Student Summit.

Please contact David Cooper, 284-4118, or Ed Ratajczak at Tifft, 825-6397, if you can help.



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## March/April/May Calendar

**Feb.-May: Hamburg and Ripley Hawk Watches.** Join the hawk watch's and help count the migrants. Volunteers welcome. An official recorder will be present daily most days, weather permitting.

**Mar. 14: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Brett Ewald will present a talk on the Lake Ontario Lakewatch.

**Mar. 24: Lake Ontario plain.** Saturday. Leader: Willie D'Anna. Meet at the Top's Market in Wright's Corners' at 8 am, located near Route 104 and Hwy 78 junction. (731-4348).

**Mar. 28: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Terry Yonker will present plans for the Lake Erie Shorebird Count.

**April 1: Iroquois NWR.** Leader: Gail Seamans. (762-8040). Waterfowl. Meet at 8:30 am at Cayuga Pool Overlook.

**April 8: April Count.** Contact Ed Fuchs for information. (832-4540 [w]; 667-3466 [h]).

**April 11: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.).

**April 25: Vaughan Memorial Lecture.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) (see article inside) Dr. Stephen W. Kress.

**May 9: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Jim Smith (Rock Point Banding Station) will discuss his banding efforts.

**May 17-18: Saranac Lake, NY.** Leader: Mike Galas. Boreal species. Contact Mike Galas for details (693-4892).

**May 20: May Count.** The 65th BOS May Bird Count will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2001 (the Sunday AFTER Mother's Day). All members are strongly encouraged to participate! Contact compiler Jim Landau for info or with questions at 941-3869. E-mail (kjlandau@localnet.com).

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: January

by Mike Zebehazy

The name January derives from that of a Roman god, Janus, whose two-faced image is found on ancient coins. One face is said to be looking to the future and the other to the past. Here that meant snow either way. The recent past included the record-setting snows of November and December. The future looked promising. January 1 was sunny with just a little snow; unfortunately this proved to be just a teaser. T. S. Eliot called April the cruelest month but had he lived in Western New York he would have experienced the gloomiest, January. The Buffalo area recorded a dismal 20% of possible sunshine for January 2001; 31% is the norm. Just two days, the 1st and 20th, were classified as mostly sunny (>70%), while 21 days were mostly cloudy including 13 with no sun at all. I know I'm not alone when I say that for many of us who cannot retreat elsewhere at this time of year, our

interest in and ability to observe birds saves us from the winter plague called cabin fever.

The month began with a continuation of the harsh wintry conditions from December. Most of the 19.6 inches of snow that fell came during the first nine days. The 9th was the last of twenty-four consecutive days with snow, the second longest streak ever at

Buffalo. The pattern then changed to a zonal Pacific-type flow that dominated the area for the final three weeks of the month. This brought consistent cloudiness but milder temperatures that averaged almost six degrees above normal during this stretch. Winds were moderate for the month and Lake Erie remained at 32 °F. Ice filled the Buffalo harbor. [Data from National Weather Service Records]

Thousands of waterfowl representing 30 species were present in and around the open waters of the Niagara River and Lakes Erie and Ontario. Large numbers of Canvasbacks, Scaup, and Long-tailed Ducks (the duck formerly known as Oldsquaw) were present. The report of the New York State Waterfowl Count for the BOS study area that was held in the middle of the month will address this.

This observer had the thrill of watching the Snowy Owl on Curriers Road in Arcade catch and consume a meadow vole. On the other hand there was great disappointment (an understatement) to learn that January 4, the day before a planned trip to see it, the Ivory Gull in Hamilton, Ontario had flown into Hydro lines and was killed. Of course, Hamilton is outside the BOS study area. The hope was that this bird would eventually move down to the lower Niagara River into our territory. Ivory Gull has been recorded only four times on the Niagara River, most recently in 1980. (The last Ivory Gull in the region, found along the Welland Canal, was killed and consumed by a Great Horned Owl.)

Because January begins a new birding year it is the only time many common species are noted in The Prothonotary. In the last ten years 162 species, subspecies and hybrids have been recorded in the month of

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January. The average is 110. Seventy species have been recorded all ten years and 13 more in nine of those years. These include 17 duck species and 8 gull species. Common Loon was missed this January for the first time in seven years. At the other extreme 19 rarities have been recorded just once and 16 just twice in the last ten years. Birds in this category for January 2001 include Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, and Harris' Sparrow (first time in ten Januarys); Blue-winged Teal, King Eider, Northern Goshawk, Common Snipe, and Pine Warbler (second time in ten Januarys).

The following is a look at the reports of some of the more unusual records for the month: Northern Goshawks were

found at north and south ends of the area, one in Allegany State Park and another at Bond Lake Park in Lewiston. This species was last recorded in the BOS area in January 1992. Merlins have been recorded in January in eight of the last ten years. This year as many as 4 individuals were noted at the University of Buffalo Main Street Campus. According to Yoerg they roost in the red pines between Hayes Hall and Clark Gym and the best time to see them is near sunset when they fly to the site. Klick noted another Merlin on Grant Street on the Buffalo State College Campus. Apparently this is a more highly educated species. The Common Snipe found along Route 380 in Chautauqua County was the first (reported) January record since 1992. The Pine Warbler at Bond Lake Park on the 27th

was a probable female according to D'Anna.

Two birds normally found in the West were of special note this month. The Harris's Sparrow continued at the same location in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario (NOTL). At 7.5 inches in length, this is our largest sparrow. The bird in question was an immature with only 'an irregular black necklace' (D'Anna) instead of the adult black patch at the base of the pink conical bill. It was in the company of many White-crowned Sparrows and when clearly seen could be easily distinguished from them. All one needed was an observation of three or four seconds to make the identification. This, however, was somewhat of a challenge as the bird would often quickly pop up from the brush and as quickly pop back down. Some observers waited very long periods before finally seeing this rarity, sometimes having to return to the location on several days before experiencing success. Andrle's observation of a Dark-eyed 'Oregon' Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*) noted particularly 'the characteristic convexity in the hood edge across the whitish breast and brownish sides, while the juncos with it showed this concave.'

Finally, thank goodness for the chickadees, crows, jays, nuthatches, woodpeckers, goldfinches, and juncos at the feeders. For those who are housebound they provide a rich and entertaining display that beats watching TV any day of the week.

## **Black Tern Five Egg Clutch Discovered**

*by David Seyler*

Black Terns are colonial marsh birds that nest in freshwater marshes, rivers and lakes. Their numbers have been declining over the past decades at an annual rate of 5.6% (BBS). New York State relisted the species from Special Concern to Endangered in 1993. The largest inland colony in the state exists at a wetland complex composed of two state wildlife management areas and a federal wildlife refuge. The site is known locally as the Alabama Swamps. I have studied the Black Tern population for eight years, locating and recording all nesting attempts.

Black Terns nest on floating structures very close to the water surface, often on old muskrat structures. The average clutch size is 3 eggs, with some nests containing 1 or 2 eggs. Maxson (1994) reported an average clutch size of 2-3 eggs from 100 nests. Seyler (1991) calculated 65% of 37 nests to contain 3 eggs, which

*(continued on page 17)*



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	7,29	11,2	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	8	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	14	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett
"	22	2	Buffalo Harbor	Klick
Horned Grebe	13	27	Shadigee	Klick, Harris
D.-crested Cormorant	7,29	71,51	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	13	1	Shadigee	Klick, Harris
"	14	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	62	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett
"	31	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Mute Swan	1;14;20	1;4;4 ad.	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna; Roberson, Burch
"	7	2	Barcelona Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	14;20	2;1	Olcott	Yoerg; Cooper et al
Tundra Swan	18	138	Niagara River	Roberson, Burch
"	20	108	Beaver Is. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Wood Duck	6,11,29	1,1,1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Bellerby
"	14	1	Silver Creek	Rew, Horbett
"	15,21	3,2	Amherst	KlickAmerican
Black Duck	7	80	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
Blue-winged Teal	<u>6</u>	1	Dufferin Is., Ont.	D'Anna
Northern Pintail	6	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Bellerby
"	15	1	Amherst	Klick
"	20	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
Green-winged Teal	6;22;29	1;1;1	Dufferin Is., Ont.	D'Anna; Watson; Bellerby
"	21	2	Machias	Klick, Sowinski
Canvasback	3	3500	Fort Erie, Ont.	Roy et al
"	15	6800	Grand Island	Klick
Redhead	15	880	Grand Island	Klick
Ring-necked Duck	1;14;20	3;6;3	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna; Morgante
"	6	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Miga
"	8	25	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	12;28	10;10	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Klick; Yoerg
"	15	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Klick
Lesser Scaup	7	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	8,27	3,50	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	13	2	Wilson	Klick, Harris
"	14	12	Jamestown	Klick, Harris
"	23	<u>450</u>	Buffalo Harbor	Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
King Eider	7	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Surf Scoter	1,6;7	1,1;1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna, DiTommaso; Yoerg
"	11,20;28	1,1;1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher et al; Klick
Black Scoter	<u>20</u>	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	D'Anna
Long-tailed Duck	10	3070	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	14	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Hooded Merganser	1	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Andrle
Ruddy Duck	3	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Roy et al
"	7,28	2,2	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	12	5	Buffalo Harbor	Klick
Bald Eagle	1	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby
"	1;12	1;3	Motor Is., Niag. R.	K&J Landau; Klick
"	8,21,29	1,1,1	Lewiston	Horne
"	19	2 im.	Strawberry Island	Watson
"	20	1 im.	Beaver Is. S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	24;29	2 @ nest	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Galas; Rew
"	28	1 ad + 1 im	Queenston, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	3	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Goshawk	<u>14</u>	1	Allegany S.P.	Klick
"	<u>29</u>	1 im.	Bond Lake Park	Klick
Red-shouldered Hawk	6;14	1;1	Jamestown	Mosher; Klick
"	20	1	Elma	Fuhrmann
Rough-legged Hawk	1;13	3;6	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby; Chapple
"	1-31	8 other rpts	throughout WNY	many observers
"	21	6	South Dayton	Rew et al
"	28	5	Wheatfield	Yoerg, Henderson
Merlin	<u>2-29</u>	4 max.	Buffalo (UB)	Yoerg
"	<u>2</u>	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	<u>4</u>	1	Amherst	Klick
"	<u>24</u>	1	Buffalo St. College	Klick
Peregrine Falcon	<u>23</u>	1	Buffalo	Klick
American Coot	7	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	130	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett
Common Snipe	<u>14</u>	1	Gerry	Klick, Harris
Little Gull	1,8	6,5	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	6	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	14	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19,25	2,2	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby
Bonaparte's Gull	1;7	1000;1500	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	10,27	3270,3085	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	1	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Rew et al
"	8;23	3;5	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg; Klick
"	14	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	24	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Lesser Black-b. Gull	8	3	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	14	3 ad.	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	15	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Klick
"	20	1	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna et al



<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Glaucous Gull	1;22	3;2	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	K&J Landau; Watson, Galas
"	20	1	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna et al
"	24	3	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Snowy Owl	1	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	1;20	1;1	Arcade	K&J Landau, Fox; Klick
"	6,8;13	1,1;1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby; Chapple
"	14;28	1	Shadigee	Harper; Potter, D'Anna
"	28	2	Wheatfield	Yoerg, Henderson
Long-eared Owl	13	2	Porter	Klick, Harris
Short-eared Owl	2	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	14;23	6;2	Wheatfield	K&J Landau; Roberson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2	2	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Klick, Harris
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	3	1	Chippawa, Ont.	Roy et al
Northern Shrike	1	1	Lockport	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2-20	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	2,13	1,1	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	6	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	17,18	1,1	Lewiston	Cooper, Farrell
"	28	2	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
Horned Lark	24	150	Oakfield	Watson, Galas
<u>E. a. alpestris</u>	28	65	Yates	D'Anna
<u>E. a. praticola</u>	14;29	32;12	Yates	Klick; Rew et al
Tufted Titmouse	3	4	Chippawa, Ont. (f)	Roy et al
Carolina Wren	15	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	28	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Winter Wren	13	1	Porter	Klick, Harris
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	<u>7</u>	1	Lake Erie S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	<u>12</u>	1	Grand Island	Klick
Eastern Bluebird	1	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna
"	12	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	14	12	Yates	K&J Landau
"	16,17,20	25,7,3	Niagara County	Cooper, Farrell
"	27	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	29	2	Bond Lake Park	Roberson
Hermit Thrush	2	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	10	1	Lewiston	Cooper, Farrell
"	17,29	1,1	Bond Lake Park	Klick
"	19	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Klick
"	26	1	Lancaster	Morgante
American Robin	13	200	Porter	Klick, Harris
"	18	190	Snyder	Klick
Yellow-r. Warbler	7	35	Lake Erie S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	12	9	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Klick
"	13	3	Lewiston	Farrell
Pine Warbler	<u>27</u>	1	Bond Lake Park	D'Anna
Eastern Towhee	1-31	1	Darien(f)	Harper
Fox Sparrow	7	1	Genesee County Park	Kunze
Swamp Sparrow	19	2	Wilson	Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Harris's Sparrow</u>	1,10,16	1,1,1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	3	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Roy et al
"	7	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna
White-cr. Sparrow	8;26	8;9	Niag.-on-the-Lake	K&J Landau; Bellerby
"	17	6	Lewiston	Klick
"	28	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	28	1	Pomfret	Klick, Harris
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oregonus</u>	21-31	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Lapland Longspur	8;28	6;7	Yates	K&J Landau; D'Anna
"	11	18	Oakfield	Klick
Snow Bunting	1	30	Golden Hill S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3	100	Porter	Kunze
"	9	35	Fredonia	Mosher
"	11	65	Oakfield	Klick
"	17	20	Hartland	Cooper, Farrell
"	29	80	Yates	Rew et al
Red-w. Blackbird	15	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	21	3	South Park, Bflo.	Andrle
Common Grackle	3	4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Roy et al
Brown-headed Cowbird	7	22	South Park, Bflo.	Rew et al
"	15	42	Tonawanda	Klick
Purple Finch	11	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	14	2	Genesee County Park	Kunze
"	20	10	Alfred	Klick, Harris
"	22	1	Colden	K&J Landau
Red Crossbill	20	1	West Almond	Klick, Harris
Pine Siskin	14	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	20	3	Alfred	Klick, Harris

Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Blk.-backed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:**

**114**

**Total for the year 2001:**

**114**

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



was very similar to the 63% recorded by Bergman *et al.* (1970). In 1993 20 nests, of 21 observed, contained 3 eggs with the remaining nest containing 2 (Seyler 1993). Cuthbert (1954) reported half of his 20 nests to contain 3 eggs, but he was unsure if the other 10 nests had full clutches when observed. Of 23 nests with known full clutches, Hickey found 65% to contain 3 eggs (Hickey 1992). Most researchers and scientists list the average clutch size to be between 2.57 and 2.95 eggs (Bailey 1977, Firstencel 1979, Goodwin 1960, Hickey 1992, 1994, Mazzocchi *et al.* 1997, Mazzocchi and Muller 1993, Maxson 1992, Seyler 1991, 1993, Tighlman 1979). At times the clutch size is reported in terms of whole eggs. Provost (1947) wrote that he found the average clutch to be 3 eggs with none containing 4 and only a few nests having 1 or 2 eggs. An even earlier report came from Bent (1921) stating that a full set was almost always 3 eggs, occasionally 2 and very rarely 4 or even 5. In 1994 Maxson tallied 100 nests and listed the average clutch to be 2-3 eggs.

On very rare occasions a female will have a clutch of 4 eggs. Maxson (1993) reported to have 1 nest out of 100 that contained 4 eggs. He believed that 1 egg was laid by another female because it was 4 or 5 days out of sequence in the stage of incubation from the other eggs.

On June 9, 2000 I revisited a nest I had located in Klossen Marsh and discovered that it contained 5 eggs. Fifteen days earlier on May 26, I had flagged the nest. At that time it contained 3 eggs. The eggs appeared a little smaller than normal and some were quite pointed.

The nest itself was fairly poor with not much of a bowl shape. It was supported from below by a dense clump of submerged, decaying vegetation that was most likely the remains of an old muskrat lodge. The tern nest was the only part of the structure above the water.

I was unable to return to the site until June 20<sup>th</sup>. There was no sign of young and had it not been for my flagging, I would not have been able to determine where the nest had been. I do not believe the nest to have been successful even though there was adequate time from the initial discovery of the nest to my last visit for the chicks to have hatched and moved off. The adult terns in the marsh were not concerned with my presence.

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# The 72<sup>nd</sup> BOS Christmas Bird Count

by Bill Bogacki (edited by Michael Davis)

The Christmas Count was conducted in relatively inclement weather on December 17, 2000. The day was overcast with rain in the morning and rain, wind, and snow in the afternoon. Thirty-four participants counted in the Buffalo circle, recording 77 species and 41,612 individuals in 16 territories.

Census Area: Centering on Grand Island including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory- from the gorge below the falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Weather: The morning was overcast and rainy, with wind, snow and rain in the afternoon. Temperatures ranged from a morning high of 47 °F to an afternoon low of 33 °F. Winds were from the southwest ranging from 15-35 m.p.h. The Niagara River was free of ice. Snow cover was about 6 inches.

Coverage: 34 observers in 17 parties made observations from 5:15 am to 4:30 pm. Party hours were 123.5 (46 on foot and 77.5 by car), plus 8 hours at feeders and 4 hours owling. Party miles were 777.5 (39 by foot and 738.5 by car).

**Species recorded:** In those instances where a species was recorded in three or fewer territories, letters in parentheses indicate where the species was observed. \*\*\* indicates lowest count in over ten years.

Common Loon	1 (A)
Redhead	20
Pied-billed Grebe	4 (D,G)
Greater Scaup	3554
Double-crested Cormorant	10(A,D,O) low
Lesser Scaup	21 (K,M,N)
Great Blue Heron	29 ***
Scaup species	50 (K)
Tundra Swan	6 (P,Q) very low
Lg-tailed Duck	1(A) low, min. 425
Mute Swan	1 (D)
C. Goldeneye	1669 low
Canada Goose	3227 ***
Bufflehead	276 low
Green-winged Teal	1 (A)
Hooded Merganser	42
American Black Duck	95 ***
C. Merganser	3486
Mallard	3632 ***
R.B. Merganser	83 low
Gadwall	91 (A,K)
Merganser species	2 (G)
Am. Wigeon	39 (A,N)

duck species	2 (A)
Canvasback	5029
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5 ***
Blue Jay	270 ***
Cooper's Hawk	5 ***
Am. Crow	677 ***
Red-tailed Hawk	52 ***
Bl.-capped Chickadee	248 ***
Rough-legged Hawk	1 (E) ***
Tufted Titmouse	27 ***
Am. Kestrel	12 ***
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2 (G) ***
Ring-necked Pheasant	4 (C,L) ***
Wh.-breasted Nuthatch	30 ***
Wild Turkey	1 (L) ***
Carolina Wren	3 (A,P) ***
Am. Coot	35 (D,K,M) ***
Winter Wren	1 (Q) ***
Little Gull	1 (A)
G.C. Kinglet	27 ***
Bonaparte's Gull	2568 ***
R. C. Kinglet	1 (H)
Ring-billed Gull	3741 ***
Am Robin	377 ***
Herring Gull	3990 ***
N. Mockingbird	4 ***
Iceland Gull	1 (A)
Cedar Waxwing	7 (K,Q) ***
Lesser Black-backed Gull	5 (A,K,N)
N. Shrike	3 (E,G,O)
Glaucous Gull	1 (A)
Eur. Starling	4718 ***
Great Black-backed Gull	638 ***
Y.R. Warbler	5 (A,K)
Rock Dove	621 ***
N. Cardinal	95 ***
Mourning Dove	248 ***
E. Towhee	2 (Q)
E. Screech Owl	3 (A,E,M) ***
Am Tree Sparrow	107 ***
Great Horned Owl	8 (A,C,L) ***
Chipping Sparrow	1 (G)
Long-eared Owl	6 (C)
Song Sparrow	14 ***
Belted Kingfisher	3 (A,K,Q) ***
Wh.-throated Sparrow	59 ***
Red-headed Woodpecker	1 (M)
D. E. Junco <i>J. hyemalis</i>	213 ***
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5 ***
Downy Woodpecker	44 ***
C. Grackle	1 (H) ***
Hairy Woodpecker	6 ***
B. H. Cowbird	30 (B,H) ***
N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker	29 ***
House Finch	181 ***
Am. Goldfinch	171 ***
House Sparrow	933 ***



**TERRITORIES & OBSERVERS:** (Names of section compilers are printed in boldface.)

- A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to the Welland River and the Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage road and area boundary. **Willie D'Anna**, Mike Morgante, Betsy Potter. 54 species; 7883 individuals.
- B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek and the Niagara River west to the QEW and area boundary. **Ed Crohn**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Paul Ziebarth. 25 species; 1300 individuals.
- C. Canada: QEW west to area boundary and south to Bowen Road. **Mike Hamilton**. 24 species; 1857 individuals.
- D. Canada: Black Creek south to the Peace Bridge and the Niagara River west to the QEW. **Frances Rew**, Audrey Horbett. 31 species; 8009 individuals.
- E. Canada: Bowen Road south to area boundary and east to the QEW and the Niagara River. **Drew Campbell**, Marcy Foster, Kayo Roy. 28 species; 2663 individuals.
- F. Niagara Falls: Porter Road, Hyde Park Boulevard, Pine Avenue and Main Street south to the Niagara River, including Goat Island, Cayuga Island east to Military Road. **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker. 24 species; 3762 individuals.
- G. North Tonawanda: Military Road southwest to the New York State Barge Canal and Niagara River and northeast to the area boundary. **Don Roberson**, Gerald Condren, Jerald Farrell, Tim Simon. 36 species; 2204 individuals.
- H. Tonawanda: Sheridan Drive north to the New York State Barge Canal and Niagara River and east to the area boundary. **Bill Watson**, Mike Galas. 31 species; 1399 individuals.
- J. Buffalo: Sheridan Drive east and south to the area boundary and west to the Niagara River. **Don Braasure**, Bob Lipp. 16 species; 1260 individuals.
- K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Road, north of Huth and Long Roads to the Niagara River. **Robert Wagner**, John Filor. 42 species; 644 individuals.
- L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Roads south to Whitehaven Road and Stony Point Road and west to the Niagara River. **Bill Burch**, Marc Cousoulis. 30 species; 653 individuals.
- M. Grand Island: East of Stony Point Road and north of Whitehaven Road to the Niagara River. **Mike Zebe-hazy**. 419 individuals.
- N. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road and Baseline Road west to the Niagara River. **Brendan Klick**, Don Harris. 39 species; 3073 individuals.
- O. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road and Baseline Road east to the Niagara River. **Jim Landau**, Karen Landau. 27 species; 703 individuals.
- P. Grand Island: Love Road south to Spaulding Road from the East Branch to the West Branch of the Niagara River. **Doug Happ**. 38 species; 6968 individuals.
- Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Road to the Niagara River. **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak. 37 species; 2771 individuals.

## Boreal Birding Trip Planned

*by Mike Galas*

On May 18 and 19, Richard MacDonald of the Nature Conservancy will lead a group of approximately 20 BOS birders in search of boreal specialties that could include, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker and our target bird, Spruce Grouse. This area between Lakes Saranac and Placid is an exciting place at any time of the year. This past January a group of us observed a Hawk Owl and experienced a bonus of great area birds. Included below is Rich MacDonald's account of our winter trip. Hopefully we can add Spruce Grouse to this list and duplicate the other boreal species.

Rich MacDonald: "Another fruitful day of boreal birding! Yesterday (Saturday, 27 January) Brian McAllister and I were joined by western New York birders Mike Galas, Gerry Rising, Gail Seamans, and Bill Watson on forays to Bloomingdale Bog and Bigelow road (both in Franklin County, north of Saranac Lake) and the Chubb River (Lake Placid, Essex County)."

"Driving down County Route 55 to the Bloomingdale Bog trailhead, we saw several large flocks of Purple Finch. Our first birds out of the car were several Boreal Chickadees. As expected, we had excellent viewing of the ever-cooperative Northern Hawk-Owl at Bloomingdale Bog. Three Gray Jay were clearly observed and at least two more were heard. As they were feeding atop spruce and flying about, we spent several minutes observing them. The way these Gray Jays were gliding quietly through the air, somewhat similar to a Sharp-shinned Hawk, makes me wonder if they are ever misreported as the latter. White-winged Crossbill were abundant. We observed several individuals carrying nest-building material, both west on the powerline past where the Northern Hawk-Owl is routinely observed, and darting under the bridge on the old railroad grade, perhaps collecting spider webbing for nest-building. Other birds observed at Bloomingdale Bog were Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue jay, American Goldfinch, and Pine Siskin."

"Our next stop was Bigelow Road, just north of the hamlet of Bloomingdale. We parked on the Bigelow



Road intersection and walked in a short distance. Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, and Boreal Chickadee were all readily observed. White-winged Crossbill were abundant and were observed carrying nesting material. The highlight was a Black-backed Woodpecker; just a few minutes walk from our car, in the woods near the wetland. I heard a faint tapping, definitely gentler, more subtle than a Downy or Hairy Woodpecker. The spruce tangle where the sound originated was thick, but persistence by our group finally yielded reasonably good views of the bird."

"On the way to the Chubb River, we visited Norman's Country Store, in Bloomingdale. This is an old-style country store. Although the selection is slim, we were more than able to purchase adequate groceries for a birder's lunch. The Chubb River is in Brian McAllister's backyard. The previous day, he had found a Three-toed Woodpecker working a dead spruce along the river. Ever thoughtful, Brian clearly wrote in the snow "3-toed" with an arrow pointing in the direction he had it. Our troop of merry birders walked the few minutes it took to get to this spot. Once again, White-winged Crossbills were everywhere, their cacophony making it difficult to listen for the subtle tapping of a Three-toed. A few Boreal Chickadees were also heard. After spending an hour looking and listening, we finally heard a soft tapping. Brief moments later, a woodpecker flew across the river into a Tamarack affording us an incredible view. Although it was not a Three-toed, this female Black-backed Woodpecker was still a spectacular treat."

If Rich's description of our trip excites you, contact me at 693-4892 for information on this Adirondack Boreal Birding Trip. Reservations are required in advance.

## Articles from Cornell Laboratory

*Birds in Forested Landscapes Needs You!* The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Birds in Forested Landscapes project needs volunteer bird watchers to help gather information about the relationship between the size of a forest patch and the likelihood that a given species will occur there. Understanding the relationship between birds and their habitat helps land managers develop the most effective ways to

manage forests for the birds that depend on them. This is especially important for birds of high conservation concern, like the Prothonotary Warbler. BFL is gathering information for some 48 species representing all regions of North America, an expansion of the project's earlier focus on thrushes and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks. To find out more about BFL, visit <http://birds.cornell.edu/bfl>, e-mail [forest\\_birds@cornell.edu](mailto:forest_birds@cornell.edu), or write Cornell Lab of Ornithology/BFL, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. To sign up, call the Lab at (800) 843-2473; outside the U.S. call (607) 254-2473.

*Calling All Birdhouse Landlords!* The Birdhouse Network asks people of all ages and backgrounds to put up nest boxes ("birdhouses") and collect valuable information about each box location, habitat characteristics, and number of eggs and nestlings in the nest. They report this information over the Internet to Cornell Lab researchers, who analyze the data to help determine what if any environmental factors contribute to nesting success. TBN recently announced their "Most Wanted List" of cavity-nesting birds 16 species for which we have fewer than 50 records. These include Prothonotary Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, Eastern Screech-Owl, and American Kestrel, all of which are also showing population declines. The TBN online data form also requests basic information about pesticide treatment near nest boxes. To find





out more about The Birdhouse Network, visit <http://birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse> (while there, visit TBN's popular Nest Box Cam for a peek into the secret lives of cavity-nesting birds via live video images taken from inside nest boxes across North America ), e-mail [birdhouse@cornell.edu](mailto:birdhouse@cornell.edu), or write to Cornell Lab of Ornithology/TBN, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. To sign up to put your birdhouse observations to work for TBN, call (800) 843-2473 in the U.S. or (607) 254-2473.

*Golden-winged Warblers.* The beautiful little Golden-winged Warbler is a species of high conservation concern to biologists and birders alike. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Golden-winged Warbler Atlas Project (GOWAP) is designed to determine the population status and habitat and area requirements of the Golden-winged Warbler and the Blue-winged Warbler (a competitor to Golden-winged Warblers for breeding areas), as well as their hybrids. GOWAP engages birders and professional biologists to survey and conduct point counts at known and potential breeding sites of Golden-winged Warblers from May through June. To find out more, visit <http://birds.cornell.edu/gowap>, or e-mail [forest\\_birds@cornell.edu](mailto:forest_birds@cornell.edu). To sign up, call (800) 843-2473 in the U.S. or (607) 254-2473.

## Council Meeting Notes

During a recent council meeting it was indicated that each BOS section has an accompanying site guide, identifying and describing the better bird-watching locations. It was further indicated that few printed copies of these guides are in existence and there is not a central repository. Members of the council suggested that a select few of the older site guides be published in upcoming issues of the Prothonotary with a further goal of assembling all available sectional site guides, updating, and publishing in future issues of the Prothonotary or as a single, comprehensive volume. If any readers have access to such site guides (or electronic versions) will you please send copies to the editor. Thanks for help in this matter.







**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
 Buffalo Museum of Science  
 1020 Humboldt Parkway  
 Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## April/May Calendar

**Feb.-May: Hamburg and Ripley Hawk Watches.** Join the hawk watch's and help count the migrants. Volunteers welcome. An official recorder will be present daily most days, weather permitting.

**April 1: Iroquois NWR.** Leader: Gail Seamans. (762-8040). Waterfowl. Meet at 8:30 am at Cayuga Pool Overlook.

**April 8: April Count.** Contact Ed Fuchs for information. (832-4540 [w]; 667-3466 [h]).

**April 11: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.).

**April 25: Vaughan Memorial Lecture.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Dr. Stephen W. Kress.

**April 29: Braddock Bay.** Sunday. This annual trip to the hawk-watch will be co-led by Mike Zebehazy (BOS). Meet at the Tanning Bed at Main and Transit at 7:00 a.m. Group will proceed to the parking lot at Braddock Bay for a 9 a.m. rendezvous with Bob Spahn (GOS).

**May 7: Tifft Nature Preserve.** Leader: Brendan Klick. Half day trip for migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. Contact Brendan for other details.

**May 9: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Jim Smith (Rock Point Banding Station) will discuss his banding efforts.

**May 17-19: Saranac Lake, NY.** Leader: Mike Galas. Boreal species. Contact Mike Galas for details (693-4892).

**May 20: May Count.** The 65th BOS May Bird Count will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2001 (the Sunday AFTER Mother's Day). All members are strongly encouraged to participate! Contact compiler Jim Landau for info or with questions at 941-3869. E-mail (kjlandau@localnet.com).

**May 23: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.).

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# The PROTHONOTARY

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### THE MONTH: February

by Bruce Chilton

Considering the ferocity with which the winter began, February turned out to be surprisingly benign; unquestionably a winter month, but comparatively easy to tolerate. This statement is supported by the official weather records. For example, the greatest snow depth was a paltry 3 inches on Feb. 3 and 4, and the heaviest 24-hour snowfall consisted of 1.8 inches on Feb. 27 and 28. (A prelude to a dreadful March?) There were two days on which the temperature reached 60 degrees, while at the other extreme, the lowest temperature recorded was a relatively balmy 10 degrees above zero. On the debit side, there were quite a few windy days, and sunshine was often sparse.

There were only six birds seen that required verification. (Actually, there was a seventh, but lack of a verification form prevents it from being included in the records.) I suppose that isn't surprising; February is a

sort of nadir of the birding year. These six were good finds, though. Doug Happ and Mike Zebehazy reported a Varied Thrush on the 24th in the town of Mansfield, which is in western Cattaraugus County near Little Valley. The bird was seen in the open, in fairly good light. In the middle of the month, a Harris's Sparrow played hide-and-seek with birders at Niagara-on-the-

Lake, Ontario; it was verified by Don Harris (appropriately!) and Brendan Klick. Bob Andrle announced that a Dark-eyed Junco of the Oregon race frequented a feeder in the town of Eden during the entire month. The U.B. South Campus Merlins reappeared this winter; in fact, Peter Yoerg believes that he spotted three separate individuals this time. The list of verification-requiring birds is rounded out by extremely early Turkey Vultures, one spotted by Jim Landau in Orchard Park and another by Terry and Judy Mosher from their home west of Fredonia, and a possibly-wintering Ruby-crowned Kinglet accompanying a flock of Goldfinches at Tifft Nature Preserve on Feb. 13, reported by Edward Ratajczak and Ron Kuwic. Other events of interest: Several Bald Eagles, adults and sub-adults, were seen on and around Navy Island, in the west branch of the Niagara River near Buckhorn Island State Park. There was hope that they would establish a nest there. The island was a nest site for eagles in the 1940s.

It was a good month for Saw-whet Owls. Brendan Klick and Don Harris (attempting a "Big Owl February") came upon three Saw-whets along the Lake Ontario shore on Feb. 3. Their excursion also produced two Long-eared Owls at Bond Lake in Niagara County. A gray-morph Gyrfalcon was reported to Dial-a-Bird as having been seen at Fort Erie on Feb. 18. Unfortunately, no verification form has been submitted.

Toward the end of the month, there was the expected invasion by small numbers of early spring migrants; robins, grackles, etc; always a harbinger of more pleasant days to come.

- |    |  |
|----|--|
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# Lake Erie Botulism Outbreak

by Joe Thill

On November 16th, 2000, Ken Roblee, a Wildlife Biologist in the Buffalo office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), received telephone calls concerning a large number of dead gulls and mergansers along the Lake Erie shoreline in Erie County at Evangola State Park and at Wendt Beach. On the following day Roblee recruited DEC personnel and Bob Andrie of the Buffalo Ornithological Society to visit those sites where a total of 344 carcasses of dead water birds were collected and sent to the DEC Wildlife Pathology Unit in Delmar, NY for diagnostic inquiry as to the cause of their deaths. Subsequently, from that date until December 4th, DEC wildlife staff conducted an intensive survey of eight sites in Erie County including one on the shoreline of the Niagara River at Beaver Island State Park in the Town of Grand Island and seven on the Lake Erie shore from Woodlawn Beach State Park southwest to Sunset Bay (see Figure 1). Additional sites on Lake Erie in Chautauqua County included Point Gratiot State Park in the City of Dunkirk and Dunkirk Harbor and Blue Water Beach and the shoreline at Barcelona Harbor in the Town of Westfield. Upon completion of the survey on December 1st, the DEC began the removal of the retrievable carcasses from those shoreline sites. This operation ended on December 7th when snowfall, ice and lake swells made retrieval of additional carcasses impossible. Eleven-hundred ten birds were recovered including 106 Common Loons, 424 Red-breasted Mergansers

and 427 Ring-billed Gulls; other species collected included Horned Grebe, Bufflehead, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull. Nearly half of the dead birds were collected at Dunkirk Harbor. The species with the highest mortality rate, as determined the number of recovered carcasses, was Red-breasted Merganser (46% of the total), followed closely by Ring-billed Gull (32%); Common Loon (11%), Herring Gull (4%), Great Black-backed Gull (2%), Horned Grebe (2%), Bufflehead (2%) and Bonaparte's Gull, American Crow, Black Duck, and Mallard (<1%). Extrapolating from the number of carcasses recovered on the

shoreline in November and early December, DEC statisticians project that as many as 8000 water birds could have succumbed in this die-off. Most notably, no sick mergansers, loons or grebes were observed on the shore indicating that almost all the birds died some distance out on the lake and were washed ashore.

As noted, the remains of the dead gulls and mergansers collected at Wendt Beach and Evangola State Park between November 17th and 27th were submitted to the DEC Wildlife Pathology Unit where the resident pathologist, Dr. Ward Stone, quickly determined that the cause of the die-off was an epizootic disease he identified as Botulism Type E, one of seven described types of this malady, only three of which, Types A, C and E, impact water birds. Of these three types, Canadian studies seem to indicate that Type A affects only domestic fowl populations while Type C

(continued on page 27)

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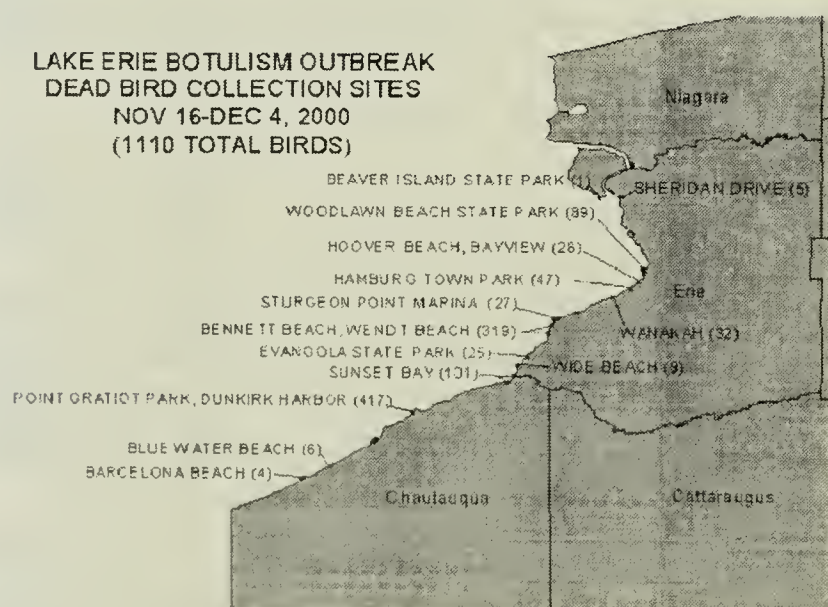


Figure 1. Map showing the collection sites on the Lake Erie and Niagara River shorelines. The number in parenthesis is the number of dead birds collected at each site. This figure was generously provided by Ken Roblee of the NYDEC.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	4	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
Horned Grebe	24	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
D.-crested Cormorant	3	2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	24	80	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
Great Blue Heron	2,16	36,31	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Burch
"	3	9	Grand Island	Watson
*Black-cr. Night-Heron	4	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
*Turkey Vulture	<u>7F</u>	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	<u>9</u>	1	Orchard Park	J. Landau
Mute Swan	11,19	3,2 ads	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Tundra Swan	11	110	Strawberry Island	Burch
"	19	19	Fort Erie, Ont.	K&J Landau
Gadwall	10	3	Pomfret	Moshers et al
Northern Pintail	3	24	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
"	7	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Hess
Redhead	24	<u>1000</u>	Golden Hill S.P.	D&D Suggs
"	28	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	11,19	19	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Greater Scaup	24	3500	Golden Hill S.P.	D&D Suggs
Lesser Scaup	3	8	Tonawanda	Watson
King Eider	27	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Harper(EABC)
Surf Scoter	3	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
"	19-27	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	several observers
Bald Eagle	1;18	4;6	Navy Island, Ont.	Burch; Burke
"	8	6 ad, 3 im	Salamanca	LeBlanc
"	11	2 im.	Strawberry Island	D'Anna
"	18	1 im.	Arcade	Happ, Zebehazy
"	24,28	2 im.	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	28	1 on nest	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	28	1	Clarence	Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	11	1	Yates	Klick
"	25	2	S. Dayton	K&J Landau
Merlin	<u>1-27</u>	3	Buffalo (UB)	Yoerg
Killdeer	9F	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	11	1	Portland	Andrles
Little Gull	11;19	5;7	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby; K&J Landau
"	12;27	23;15	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Bonaparte's Gull	12;20	1470;850	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	18	1	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	25	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snowy Owl	19	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Watson
Long-eared Owl	3	2	Bond Lake Park	Klick, Harris
"	18	10	Porter	Klick, Harris
"	20	4	Clarence	Klick, Sowinski
*Nor. Saw-whet Owl	3,11	1,1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	3	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	3	1	Somerset	Klick, Harris
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	17	1	Chippawa, Ont.	Bellerby
Northern Shrike	14,19	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	18	1	Porter	Klick, Harris
"	18	1	Wheatfield	Klick, Harris
"	24	2	Yates	D&D Suggs
*Common Raven	26	1	Franklinville	DeSha
Horned Lark				
<u>E. a. alpestris</u>	11	105	Somerset & Yates	Klick, Harris
Carolina Wren	4	1	Point Gratiot	Yoerg
"	18	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	24	2	Lake Erie S.P.	Klick, Harris
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	<u>13</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	Ratajczak
Hermit Thrush	3	1	Bond Lake Park	Klick, Harris
* <u>Varied Thrush</u>	24	1	Mansfield	Happ, Zebehazy
Yellow-r. Warbler	4;24	15;12	Lake Erie S.P.	Yoerg; Klick
"	18	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	2	Pendleton	Klick, Sowinski
"	21	1	Dunnville, Ont.	J. Smith
Eastern Towhee	1-28	1	Darien(f)	Harper
<u>Harris's Sparrow</u>	18	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Klick, Harris
White-cr. Sparrow	18	20	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Klick, Harris
"	18	9	Porter	Klick, Harris
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	1-28	1	Eden Valley(f)	Andrle
Lapland Longspur	4	1	Evans	Klick
"	11	2	Yates	Klick, Harris
Snow Bunting	11	1	Yates	Klick
"	18	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg
Red-w. Blackbird	12F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	23	5	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	25	20	S. Dayton	K&J Landau
*Rusty Blackbird	3	1	Franklinville(f)	DeSha
Common Grackle	26F	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	27	1	Tonawanda	Hess, Watson
Brown-headed Cowbird	17F;28	30;22	Tonawanda	Hess; Watson
Purple Finch	16-28	6	Darien(f)	Harper
"	17	11	Franklinville(f)	DeSha
Pine Siskin	17	1	Franklinville(f)	DeSha
"	24	1	Boston	Klick, Harris

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 114

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue: 6

Total for the year 2001: 120

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



is notoriously responsible for the tremendous mortality among ducks and other waterfowl during periodic outbreaks of the disease in western North America and, to a lesser extent, in the northeastern part of the continent. In his report, Dr. Stone remarked that in his 32 year career as a pathologist, the water bird kill on the Lake Erie shore was his first encounter with Type E Botulism. However, it was not unknown; many reports of Type E Botulism in the Great Lakes region have been received in recent years where it is described as strongly impacting 'predator species' of water birds, including loons, grebes and mergansers as well as several gull species. In the botulism outbreak in the Province of Ontario in 1999, Lake Erie and Lake Huron sustained the highest avian mortality rates, where, over a period of ten weeks between August and November of that year, hundreds of waterbirds of sixteen species died along the shores of Lake Huron from Kettle Point to Grand Bend and Lake Erie from Point Pelee National Park to Turkey Point and Long Point Provincial Parks. Among the dead birds recovered during that outbreak, Type E Botulism was confirmed in Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons, Red-throated Loons and Ring-billed Gulls. It is estimated that from 1700 to 2000 birds perished in that epidemic, mostly mergansers on Lake Erie and mostly loons on Lake Huron.

Botulism is a paralytic, often fatal disease usually resulting among birds and other vertebrates from ingestion of pre-formed toxins produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. It is especially lethal in its effect on water bird populations in North America. These widespread bacteria thrive under the conditions of warm temperature, a protein source, and an anaerobic (lacking oxygen) environment. This condition exists in decaying mats of lake shore vegetation, intermixed with large quantity of aquatic invertebrates. Birds either ingest the toxin directly or may eat invertebrates, e.g., chironomids, fly larvae. Invertebrates are not affected by the toxin and can accumulate it in their bodies. On the Lake Erie Shoreline, some botulism outbreaks occur when fly larvae (maggots) feed on botulism-infected decaying fish and other vertebrate carcasses, ingesting the preformed botulin toxins. The maggots, in turn, are then consumed by birds, transmitting the toxins and bacteria. Questions still remain however regarding: (1) the origin of botulism caused by the *Clostridium* bacterium and (2) what organism is the vector transmitting Type E Botulism, which is strongly associated with fish and their predators. With the possible exception of the Ring-billed Gull, which is a facultative species, the carcasses of water birds

comprising most of the victims of Type E Botulism - mergansers, loons, grebes and several species of diving ducks - are deep water predators pursuing live prey including cyprinid fish and other freshwater vertebrates. It is hypothesized that these birds die shortly after devouring fish and other aquatic organisms infected with disease and their remains are washed ashore by wind or tidal currents. Scientists are now looking at the possibility that the Zebra Mussel, an unwelcome adventive that arrived in the Great Lakes in 1980 by way of the St. Lawrence Seaway, may harbor the bacteria of concentrated toxin. The mussels in turn are the prey of another unwelcome adventive, the Round Goby, a small bottom-feeding fish of European provenance that has become popular as a bait fish with Great Lakes fishermen. Since Canadian biologists have recently identified Type E Botulism in fish and shellfish-eating water birds in Lake Erie, the Zebra Mussel and its predator, the Round Goby, have become prime suspects as probable vectors of the toxin. However, a sample of the stomach contents of gobies and carp collected from Dunkirk Harbor for analysis by Dr. Stone proved to be toxin-free.

Dr. Stone opines that a probable cause of this virulent outbreak of botulism in the year 2000 was the wettest spring and summer in Western New York in 50 years with rainfall washing large amounts of sewage and other organic matter into Lake Erie enhancing the growth and toxic production of *Clostridium botulinum*. State DEC personnel fear that similar meteorological patterns in the spring and summer of 2001 will result in a recrudescence of the disease with an even greater mortality of water birds in their autumn passage through the lower Great Lakes.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of Ken Roblee, Senior Wildlife Biologist at the Buffalo Office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in providing most of the data, without which, this article could not have been written.

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# FEDERATION WATERFOWL COUNT: JANUARY 13-21, 2001

by Bill Burch

**Introduction.** This report gives the results for Region 1 of the 47th Annual Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Census results will be used by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to monitor long-term population trends. Statewide results will be published in the Federation Journal, The Kingbird, at a later date. Region 1 consists of the BOS study area, minus the land on the Canadian side of the Niagara River.

**Results.** The 2001 count for Region 1 was truly remarkable. Not only was last year's record total eclipsed by 65%, but there were also record numbers for five species: Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser (see data below).

SPECIES	NO.	COMMENTS*
Common Loon	4	high (B,D)
Pied-billed Grebe	7	average (I,K)
Horned Grebe	28	high (A,J)
Double-cr Cormorant	65	high (most I)
Tundra Swan	144	high (F,G)
Mute Swan	6	high (A,F)
Canada Goose	1292	average
Wood Duck	39	record high(most L)
Mallard	7199	high
Am. Black Duck	178	average
Gadwall	38	average (E)
Green-winged Teal	3	high (M)
American Wigeon	7	low (E,F)
Northern Pintail	3	average (F,M,P)
Blue-winged Teal	1	unusual (F)
Canvasback	22,612	record high(mostE,G)
Redhead	1056	record high(most G)
Ring-necked Duck	5	low, variable (E,F,G)
Greater Scaup	20,957	record high(mostE,H)
Lesser Scaup	76	high (E,F)
Black Scoter	1	unusual (E)
White-winged Scoter	528	high (most A,B)
Surf Scoter	1	unusual (I)
Long-tailed Duck	5692	record high(mostC,D)
Common Goldeneye	3129	average
Bufflehead	673	high
Common Merganser	2671	average
Red-br. Merganser	4202	record high (most F)
Hooded Merganser	46	high

Ruddy Duck	2	variable (I)
American Coot	136	average (most I)
Unidentified	1000	(F)

<b>Total Species</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>high</b>
<b>Total individuals</b>	<b>71,801</b>	<b>record high</b>

\*count sections are given in parenthesis for those species recorded in three or fewer sections.

**Discussion.** The weather was much milder for the 2001 count dates compared to last year's. The target date, January 14, was excellent for counting, and 14 of the 18 parties went out that day. This conformity helps avoid double-counting of shifting flocks. The weather on January 14 was typical of the week: 30-35 °F during daylight hours, overcast sky, a little morning fog and a wind light enough to leave the water unruffled. The snow depth was mostly 6-12 inches but twice that in places. Ice pans in the Niagara River, a product of earlier cold weather, had melted. Lake Erie was frozen as far as the eye could see. Flocks deprived of refuge on the open lake water, instead, moved to the river. Lake Ontario was open. In the southern tier the Allegheny River was mostly frozen and the Allegheny Reservoir was completely frozen-over.

The Canvasback count of 22,612 was triple last year's and exceeded the previous high of 15,372 in 1958. The Niagara River consistently has by far the highest Canvasback count of the 10 New York regions. The Canvasbacks were in flocks extending for 2.5 miles at the north end of Grand Island in the upper Niagara River. The Grand Island flock wrapped around Buckhorn Park and extended south a mile on the west branch of the Niagara River. Those on the Niagara County side extended the length of Cayuga Island and to the north bridge. The two parties (E&G) were on opposite shores at the same time and recognized that the flocks were near the respective shores so there was no likelihood of counting each other's birds. It was a fortuitous day since these birds were not as abundant in the one spot before or after that.

The Greater Scaup count of 20,957 nearly doubled the record of last year. These were in large flocks off the Buffalo waterfront, beyond 0.2 mile of ice. Parties E and H counted here on the same day. The corresponding count across the river (F) could not be made until four days later. By then the Buffalo scaup had moved out and may have accounted for the 4000



found at the ice boom on the Canadian side so those were discounted. Region 1 may have the largest scaup count in the state.

The Long-tailed Duck count of 5692 was a record high. As usual these were on Lake Ontario, near Ft. Niagara, and in the lower Niagara River, concentrated at the river mouth and at Lewiston, six miles upriver, but many scattered all along. All parties (B,C&D) worked the same day and believed the number realistic. Davis reported that flocks of these ducks were flying in from Lake Ontario to the river in the morning.

The Red-breasted Merganser count of 4202 exceeded by far the former record of 1250 in 1988. In this case the leader of Party F found a flock of almost 3000 below the ice boom on the Canadian side of the upper river. Numbers for this species seem highly variable so a high count may depend on a lucky find.

The Tundra Swan count of 144 continues the high swan counts of the past two years, a remarkable turnaround from earlier years. The flock preferred slow-moving shallow water where they could feed. They spent their time at the southern tip of Grand Island or a mile west along the Canadian shore. They apparently move to avoid rough water, wind or ice.

Ten Bald Eagles were seen and reported as part of the DEC midwinter Bald Eagle survey. These were: Area G, Jan. 12, Three at Motor Island, 1 ad., 2-2nd yr.; Area C, Jan. 14, Two at Lewiston docks, 1 ad., 1 2nd yr.; Area K, Jan. 14, Three near Olean, 2 ad., 1 sub-ad. 3 1/2 yr.; Area O, Iroquois NWR, Two ad., 1 male and 1 female.

### Territories and Party Leaders

A - Lake Ontario, Point Breeze to Olcott	J. Farrell
B - Lake Ontario, Olcott to Ft. Niagara	P. Yoerg
C - Ft. Niagara to base of Falls, U.S. side	M. Davis
D - NOTL to base of Falls, Can. side	M. Zebehazy
E - Buffalo harbor to Goat Is., NY side	J. Thill
F - Lake Erie to Horseshoe Falls, Can-side	D. Roberson
G - Grand Island, NY, (in Niagara River)	D. Brasure
H - Lake Erie; Bflo s. harbor to Silver Crk	D. Suggs
I - Lake Erie; Silver Crk to PA state line	F. Rew
J - Jamestown and Chautauqua Lake	R. Sundell
K - Olean and Salamanca	T. Baird
L - Allegany County	D. Burton
M - Batavia	G. Seamans
N - Oak Orchard and Tonawanda W.M.A.	E. Ratajczak
O - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge	E. Ratajczak
P - Amherst, Clarence, Cheektowaga	W. Burch
Q - Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cm.	B. Klick

R - So.Park, Caz. Park & Crk., W. Seneca J. Landau  
abbreviation: Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL)

**Participants.** The compiler extends his thanks to the BOS members and friends who took part in this annual count: Bob Andrlle, Tim Baird, Paul Baglia, Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Olive Burch, Doris Burton, David Cooper, Mike Davis, Mike DaSha, Steve Eaton, Jerry Farrell, Doug Happ, Barbara Henderson, Audrey Horbett, Mary Jordan, Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Brian Lewandowski, Bob Lipp, Jane Mason, Max Mason, Ed Ratajczak, Frances Rew, Don Roberson, Bill Saleen, Carmen Scutella, Dolores Seamans, Gail Seamans, Dave Suggs, Debbie Suggs, Bob Sundell, Joe Thill, Larry Wilson, Peter Yoerg, and Mike Zebehazy.

## Youth Birding Adventure at Tifft

*by Ed Ratajczak*

As promised, whew!, it did not rain Saturday, March 31 or Sunday, April Fool's Day. Of Saturday's 45 preregistered participants, the 30 in attendance were provided with extraordinary assistance and guidance by 14 BOS mentors. Likewise on Sunday, 25 of the 39 preregistered participants attended and were guided by 9 BOS mentors. Both days provided a reasonable representation of the local avifauna with several "first of the year at Tifft", FOTY, sightings. The Sunday thermals also brought a number of migrating raptors and vultures. Brandan Klick "clicked-off" the buteos, eagles, accipiters and hundreds of Turkey Vultures that soared overhead. A possible Merlin was also observed. Based on the evidence presented by the several observers who described the bird, Bill Bogacki had no qualms accepting the record as one of the "FOTY's" at Tifft Nature Preserve. The comment, "This has been the best attended program recently held at Tifft", by one of the Tifft Nature Preserve Staff, may well indicate how well the general public accepts our efforts. This acceptance is due to the quality of the efforts of the following volunteers who devoted their time on one, or both\*, day(s) to ensure success of the event: Bill Bogacki\*, David Cooper\*, Mike Galas, Mike Hamilton, Jane Heyer, Jackie Isgro, Brendan Klick\*, Lynne Landon\*, Michail and Joan Russell, Gail and Delores Seamans, Margaret Stewart, David and Debbie Suggs, Paul and Nancy Vigyikan, Jim Wojewodzki and Ed Ratajczak\*.





**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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## May/June Calendar

**April 29: Braddock Bay.** Sunday. This annual trip to the hawk-watch will be co-led by Mike Zebehazy (BOS). Meet at the Tanning Bed at Main and Transit at 7:00 a.m. Group will proceed to the parking lot at Braddock Bay for a 9 a.m. rendezvous with Bob Spahn (GOS).

**May 7: Tifft Nature Preserve.** Leader: Brendan Klick. Half day trip for migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. Contact Brendan for other details.

**May 9: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.) Jim Smith (Rock Point Banding Station) will discuss his banding efforts.

**May 17-19: Saranac Lake, NY.** Leader: Mike Galas. Boreal species. Contact Mike Galas for details (693-4892).

**May 20: May Count.** The 65th BOS May Bird Count will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2001 (the Sunday AFTER Mother's Day). All members are strongly encouraged to participate! Contact compiler Jim Landau for info or with questions at 941-3869. E-mail (kjlandau@localnet.com).

**May 23: BOS Meeting.** (Science Museum; 7:30 p.m.). Business meeting.

**June 8: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner.** Leader: Bill Burch 773-3690. Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6 p.m. We will eat in the Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colborne, Ontario. This is at 182 West Street, on the west bank of the Welland Canal. Then we go to Wilson Road, which is four miles west of town. Reservations are appreciated.

**June 13: BOS Meeting and Picnic.** (Tifft Nature Preserve; 7:30 p.m.). Bring a picnic dinner for the final meeting until September.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### THE MONTH: March

by Bob Wagner

"It was a terrible month." That's how Frances Rew described the March hawk flight as monitored from her perch at Lakeside Memorial Park in the Town of Hamburg. Her assessment received support from the National Weather Service, which summarized the month as "cold and snowy." Indeed, it was the snowiest March in 65 years and the third snowiest in the record books, with 32.8 inches. At month's end the winter was the second snowiest on record, totaling 158.1 inches. The deficit of snow for the first two months of the year, 14.7 inches, was more than made up for by the 22.5 inch surplus during March.

March temperatures were cool and sunshine was scarce. After reaching 60 °F twice in February the highest temperature for the month of March was only 50 °F -- the lowest maximum temperature since temperature records have been kept at the airport,

1943. The 98.7 hours of sunshine was the lowest ever for the month, with 17 of the 31 days having 10 percent or less of possible sunshine. Lake Erie remained at 32 °F all month with a significant ice pack at the eastern end of the lake.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Rew, and her colleagues at the Hawkwatch, found only 14 days of the month even marginally

suitable for hawk migration. Nineteen of the 31 days had precipitation. Hawks coast northward along the thermals that rise up as the sun heats the earth. "You need a sunny day," noted Rew, "And it's hard to get thermals when you have snow on the ground." It helps to have a southerly component with the wind, a southwest wind is supposed to be best. The March winds often lacked this directional component.

Despite the poor March weather, observers at the Hamburg Hawkwatch still recorded 2,387 raptors for the month. This number was fewer than half the 4,831 recorded in March of 2000. Last year, for example, there were 1,600 Turkey Vultures recorded on March 25; compared with this year's high of 384 on March 23. The hawkwatchers did have a good turnout of eagles, with six Bald Eagles on the 20th, another on the 21st, and three on the 28th, along with two Golden Eagles on the 20th. Bald Eagles turned up elsewhere as well: LeBlanc had eight at the Allegheny Reservoir, while Burch reported four at Buckhorn Island State Park on the 21st. There were reports of one or two eagles from Lewiston, Salamanca, Buffalo, West Middlebury, Beaver Island, Royalton and Oakfield.

Breeding Bald Eagles were also news. Burch reported a pair at a new nesting site at Cayuga Pool in the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (INWR) on the 23rd. This is in addition to a pair at the old site near Mohawk Pool that is monitored on a video screen at the refuge administration building. Stephen Kahl, assistant manager of the refuge, reported that the eagles at Mohawk Pool produced two eggs, the first on March 1, that proved to be infertile. The egg infertility was "possibly affected by the snow," he said, although the eggs appeared to be continuously brooded. It's not unusual for a female to produce infertile eggs the first

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time, Kahl said. This female had been in the area last year, but this was her first time nesting, he said. As of this writing, the second nest at Cayuga Pool appeared to be active, although its contents could not be monitored.

Waterfowl reports were March birding highlights. INWR biologist, Paul Hess, said that migrant Canada Geese were somewhat late, because "we had a lot of ice," but a survey on the 16th turned up 40,000 and another on the 29th, 50,000. Ducks were later still, but there were up to 2,000 Pintails by the end of the month, along with Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks, and Mallards. "There were not a lot of

swans," said Hess, only 7 on the 29th. Andrie and others saw 390 swans in seven flocks at the Hamburg Hawkwatch on the 15th. Brendan Klick turned up a Greater White-fronted Goose on the 31st at Shelby. He also had 205 Snow Geese, "98 percent white phase," at Oakfield on the 18th and 450 on the 31st. Hess reported 1 Snow Goose and a White-fronted Goose at the refuge on the 29th. There were other reports of Snow Goose from Wethersfeld (60), Lancaster (7), Newstead (10), Bismarck, Ont. (51), and the Hamburg Hawkwatch (17 and 50). D'Anna reported a Brant and a Red-necked Grebe at Somerset on a BOS field trip on the 24th. The most significant find for the month may have been Klick's Ross's Goose at Oakfield on the 31st in a field with a flock of Snow Geese. "I first noticed the bird from among the surrounding Snow Geese by its smaller size, 15 to 30 percent, and stubbier bill," Klick said. "The head was

rounder, the bill was shorter, stubbier and more triangular, I could not see any black along the edges of the upper and lower mandibles and while in flight it was quite striking that the neck was proportionally shorter than on the Snow Geese." There are three previous records of Ross's Goose in the BOS study area: 1988, 1992 and 1999, according to David Suggs, custodian of the Noteworthy Records Database. Lastly, the interesting attraction of Ruddy Ducks to the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Center continues. Watson had 29 there on the 31st.

Downtown Buffalo's pair of Peregrine Falcons spent the winter there according to Burch, and were observed during March at their old nesting site, on the 18th floor, 19th if the mezzanine is included, of the Statler Towers. See the article below describing their aggressive territorial behavior. The nest can again be observed on a video display (partly financed by the BOS) in the window of the U.S. Airways Office. This nest is also being monitored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Some miscellaneous items: The DEC's Mark Kandel has asked for help from BOS observers in trying to locate the Peregrine Falcons that nested last year along the gorge at Niagara Falls. Yoerg and others reported up to three wintering Merlins at the South Campus of the University at Buffalo up until March 29th. Finally, Andrie's *Junco hyemalis oreganus* -- more familiarly but perhaps inaccurately known as the "Oregon Junco" -- was still appearing at his feeder nearly every day through March. It had turned up with the snowstorms in November. "I got to know it very well," he said.

## **Snowy Owl Harrassed by Statler Peregrine Falcon**

*by Bill Burch*

This interplay between one of the Statler peregrines and a Snowy Owl on March 15, 2001 would have escaped notice had not Bob Dauer observed it from his office window. Mr. Dauer has an office on the 16th floor of the Tishman Building. From his desk he has a clear view of the Statler Towers and the nest window, a distance of 865 feet. The Tishman Building is on the east side of Main Street at Lafayette Square. Just east of it is the Rand Building, which also affords a good view, 960 feet from the nest.

Around 10 a.m. on March 15 Mr. Dauer became  
*(continued on page 36)*



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Common Loon	31	2	Allegheny Reservoir	DeSha
Pied-billed Grebe	10	1	Olean	LeBlanc, DeSha
Horned Grebe	3	3	Olean	Reed
"	3	5	Allegheny Reservoir	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	4	3	Somerset	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	4	2	Shadigee	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	26	28	Salamanca	LeBlanc
*Red-necked Grebe	24 F	1	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
Great Blue Heron	29	53	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	29	22	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle et al
Black-cr. Night-Heron	29	7	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Turkey Vulture	1	2	Portville	LeBlanc
"	4	2	Evans	Rew, Horbett
"	28	384	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
* <u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	31	1	Shelby	Klick
*Snow Goose	8F	60	Wethersfield	Pachuta
"	15;28	17;50	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle et al
"	16	7	Lancaster	Morgante
"	18	10	Newstead	Yoerg
"	18,31	205,450	Oakfield	Klick
"	18	51	Bismarck, Ont.	Curry, Slessor
* <u>Ross's Goose</u>	31	1	Oakfield	Klick
Canada Goose	25	24500	Oakfield & Alabama	Klick
* <u>B. c. hutchinsii</u>	18	1	Oakfield	Klick, Harris
*Brant	<u>24</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
Tundra Swan	3	18	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	3	24	Allegheny Reservoir	LeBlanc
"	10	23	Olean	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	15	390	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle et al
"	19,21	43,55	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Burch
"	31	30	Allegany	LeBlanc
Wood Duck	4	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Blue-winged Teal	24F	2	Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
*Northern Shoveler	25F	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	26	4	Salamanca	LeBlanc
Northern Pintail	4	12	Chippawa, Ont.	Landon, Yonker
"	4	21	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	25	200	Hartland	Yoerg
Green-winged Teal	9F	2	Pomfret	Mosher
"	18	5	Newstead	Yoerg
Redhead	4,24	21,6	Shadigee	D'Anna et al
"	26	1	Salamanca	LeBlanc
"	31	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	1F	3	Olean	Reed
"	17	4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18,31	19,51	Oakfield	Klick
Greater Scaup	4	500	Shadigee	D'Anna et al
Lesser Scaup	18F	1	Oakfield	Klick, Harris
"	31	18	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Surf Scoter	26F	1	Salamanca	LeBlanc
Long-tailed Duck	23	5000	Fort Niagara S.P.	Landon
Ruddy Duck	31F	29	Batavia WWTP	Watson
*Osprey	29F	6	Allegheny Reservoir	LeBlanc, DeSha
Bald Eagle	3	8	Allegheny Reservoir	LeBlanc
"	4	1 ad.	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	10	2	Salamanca	LeBlanc
"	10	2 im.	W. Middlebury	Fox
"	13	2 im.	Buffalo	D'Anna
"	18,25	1,1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	20;28	6;3	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	21	4	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Burch
"	22;29	1 im.	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess; Watson
"	23	2 at nest	Cayuga Pool, INWR	Burch, Brasure
"	25	1 im.	Oakfield	Klick
"	25	1 im.	Royalton	Klick
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	2	Wethersfield	Fox
"	20	106	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Red-tailed Hawk	20	171	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Rough-legged Hawk	18	1	Oakfield	Klick, Harris
"	20	1	Eagle	Fox
"	20	1	Bethany	Fox
"	23	4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Klick
"	25	1	Cambria	Yoerg
"	25	1	Yates	Yoerg
"	27	2	Salamanca	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	29	1	Randolph	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	31	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	DeSha et al
* <u>Golden Eagle</u>	20	1,1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle; D'Anna
Merlin	<u>2-20</u>	3 max.	Buffalo (UB)	Yoerg
"	<u>7</u>	1	Buffalo St. College	Klick
"	<u>18F</u>	1	Wheatfield	D'Anna
"	<u>29</u>	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Peregrine Falcon	22	1	Buffalo	Morgante
*Greater Yellowlegs	25F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg
Common Snipe	31F	50	E. Randolph	DeSha et al
*American Woodcock	15F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	16	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Little Gull	2	6	Lewiston	Landon, Yonker
"	4	18	Porter	Potter, S. O'Donnell
Short-eared Owl	25	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Andrle, Rew
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	4;29	1;1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter et al
"	8	1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-headed Wdpkr.	3	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Rew
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	31F	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick et al
*Eastern Phoebe	25F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Klick
"	29	1	Alfred	Brooks, Cushing
"	31	2	Allegany S.P.	DeSha
"	31	2	Allegany S.P.	DeSha
Northern Shrike	4	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	10	1	Arcade	Fox
"	17	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna
"	17	1	Lancaster	Morgante



<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Klick
"	25	1	Cambria	Yoerg
"	31	1	Great Valley	DeSha
Shrike species	17	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna
Common Raven	18	1	Ischua Valley	Reed
"	19	1	Golden Hill S.F.	DeSha
Horned Lark				
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	18	120	Oakfield	Klick
*Tree Swallow	20F	3	Hamburg	Andrle et al
"	23	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	31	88	Allegheny Reservoir	DeSha et al
Carolina Wren	4,18	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	9,11	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	19	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	31	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick et al
Hermit Thrush	11	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Northern Mockingbird	18	1	Newstead	Yoerg
*American Pipit	17F	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna
"	24	9	Randolph	LeBlanc, DeSha
Eastern Towhee	31F	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick et al
*Fox Sparrow	26F	2	Alfred	Brooks, Cushing
Dark-eyed Junco				
<i>J. h. oreganus</i>	1-31	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Lapland Longspur	18	3	Oakfield	Klick, Harris
Snow Bunting	18	900	Somerset	Klick, Harris
"	18	31	Oakfield	Klick, Harris
*Eastern Meadowlark	17F	1	Alexander	J. Fox
"	24	1	Wales	Bee
"	24	4	Hartland	D'Anna(BOS)
Rusty Blackbird	25F	1	Ischua Valley	Reed
"	28	12	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Purple Finch	1-31	16 max.	Franklinville(f)	DeSha
"	5-31	9 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	18	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	19	1	Ward	Brooks
Pine Siskin	7	2	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Potter
"	10	3	Sardinia	Fox
"	10	1	Genesee Co. Park	Fox
"	10	6	Wethersfield	Fox

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total for the year 2001:</b>	<b>137</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

**Errata:** Delete Fox Sparrow from January Noteworthy Records. Add Killdeer to February Noteworthy Records Total.



(continued from page 32)

aware that a peregrine was repeatedly diving toward some object on a Statler ledge. With the aid of his binoculars he could see that it was a Snowy Owl. It was sitting on a ledge about six feet below the row of four round windows, about 15 feet to the right of the right-most window. The ledge here is a decorative corner piece, broad enough to make a good perch. Observing the action was the male peregrine, sitting on the perch pole at the nest in the left-most round window, 60 feet from the owl.

The female (she is the larger and more aggressive of the pair) flew in a steep, nearly 45 degree, dive at the owl, almost grazing it as she veered off at the last moment. The owl was sitting upright and appeared rather unconcerned by the attack as Dauer saw it. It was taking no defensive action. Dauer watched the peregrine make two of the attacks after which it gave up and left the scene, the owl remaining there. Dauer's attention was diverted for several minutes and when he looked again the Snowy Owl had flown away. For Dauer the episode had taken about 10 minutes. He did not know how long the attack had been going on before he became aware of it. Incidentally, the first peregrine egg was laid three weeks after this.

There is little doubt that the bird was a Snowy Owl. Dauer had been taken as a boy to see a wild one and it had made a lasting impression on him. In this case he remarked on the large round head, the overall white color and the enormous height and bulk compared to the peregrine. He is a good observer of birds, remarking that last year an Osprey flew over the Statler, unmolested. This spring he had seen two Turkey Vultures being harassed by the peregrines, a reminder of the May 2, 1999 incident seen by the Landaus. He saw the attack on the Red-tailed Hawk on May 5, 1999 and was pleased when I said the hawk had made a full recovery.

This is indeed an aggressive female; soon we will know her background now that we have read her leg bands.

## Banding of Fall Passerines in Niagara County — 1976-1998

By Jerry Farrell

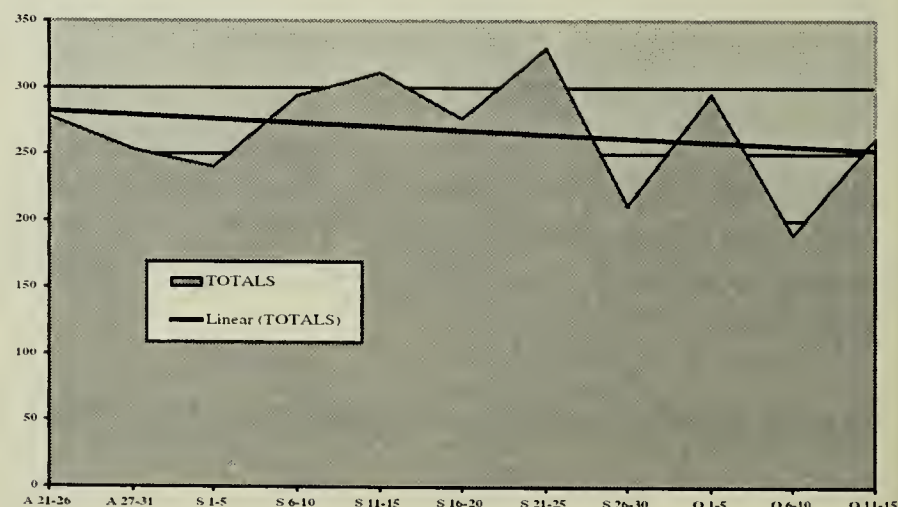
This report briefly summarizes a few aspects of my bird banding in Niagara County from 1976 to 1998 on the property of the Fish, Feather and Fur Conservation

Society at 904 Swann Road, Lewiston. Each year my banding extended from August 21 to October 15. Over those 23 years of activity almost 3000 passerines of 76 species were trapped in 20 12-meter mistnets and banded.

There are many values to banding. Some of those values derive from local retrapping, which gives us, for example, information about life spans. Other values derive from the capture of birds previously trapped elsewhere; this helps us to determine migration patterns. This paper, however, focuses on still another value — providing evidence about the timing of migration. By summarizing banding totals over many years these records tell us a good deal about when fall migrants pass through this region.

The accompanying table on page 39 provides the data amassed over my many thousands of hours of banding. (Note that this table lists 79 forms instead of the 76 species mentioned in the first paragraph. There are three reasons for the difference in totals: (1) banders retain an older name (Traill's Flycatcher) for the Alder and Willow Flycatchers that are impossible to differentiate in the hand; (2) the Brewster's Warbler is a Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler hybrid; and (3) the two forms of the Palm Warbler (Western and Yellow) are identified there.)

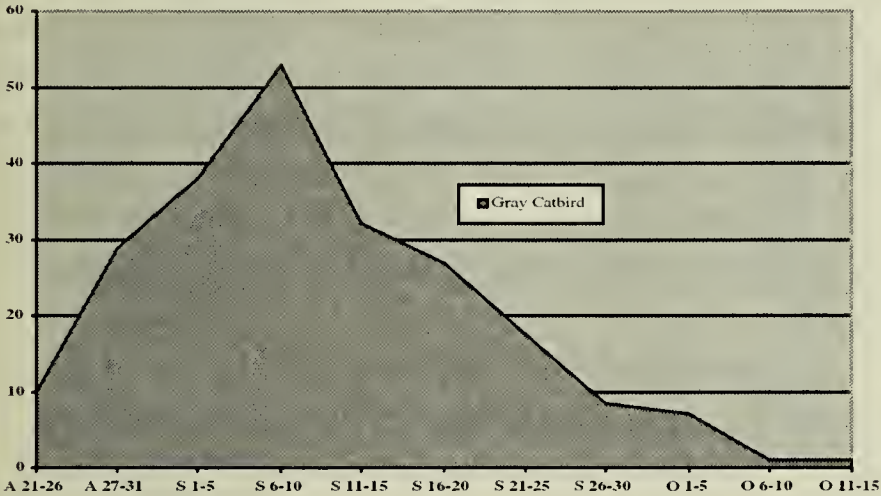
One of the interesting features made clear by this data is shown in the following chart of the total numbers of birds banded in each five day time period. For this graph the linear regression line that provides a kind of running average, smoothing the ups and downs of the individual totals is almost horizontal, declining over the almost two month period from about 280 birds in late August to 250 in mid-October. This suggests that the local fall passerine migration is quite evenly distributed through this time period.



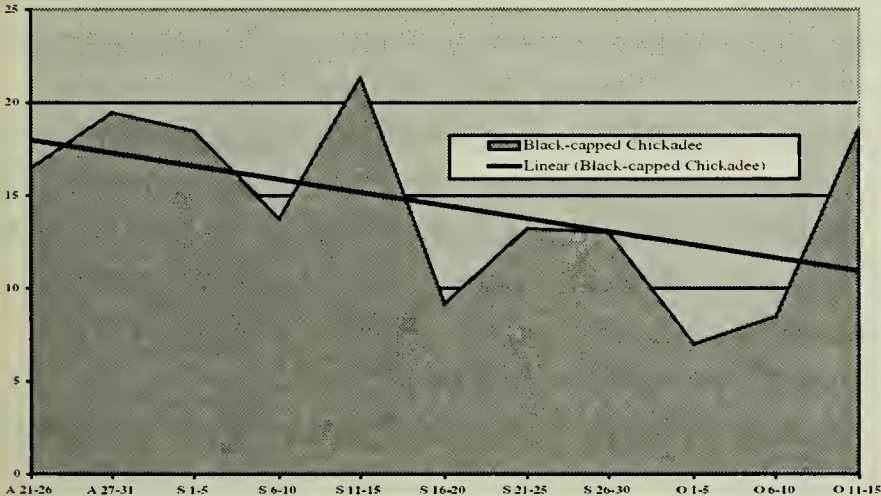
For some individual species these banding records give us a quite full picture of their fall migration. For



each of them we can tell reasonably well when their numbers peaked and when only occasional stragglers remained. These species include several thrushes, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, many of the warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Consider, for example, the chart for Gray Catbird. It is clear from that the migration peak for this species is in the period from September 6 to 10, but that smaller numbers of catbirds continue to pass through the region until at least early-October.



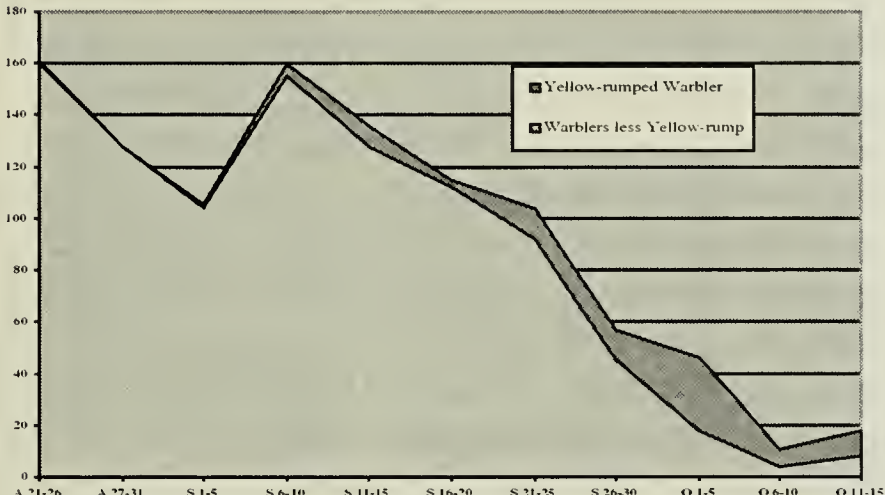
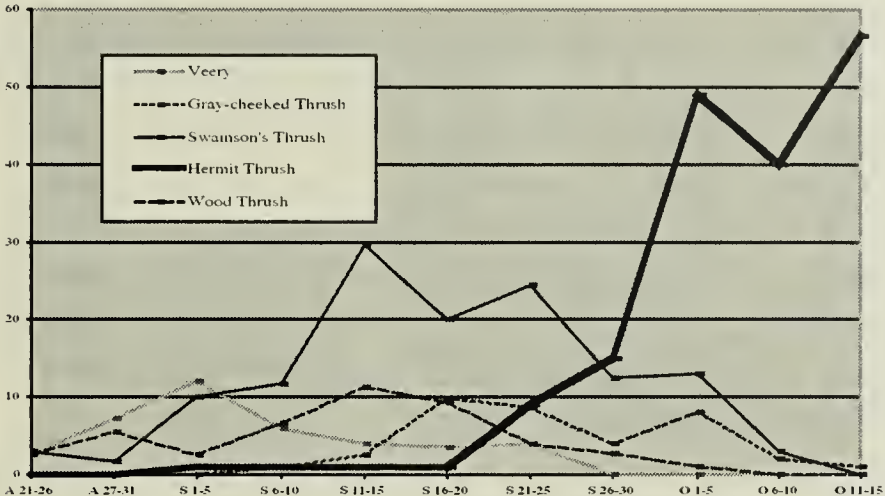
Other species display quite different patterns. This chart, for example, shows that the number of chickadees being banded remains relatively constant, the decline in the regression line from 18 to 12 partly countered by the increased number of these birds in mid-October.



Notice in the next chart how four of the five thrushes complete their fall migration during the period surveyed. Only the Hermit Thrush, our latest migrant of this group remains in good numbers.

One final example of the uses to be made of this data is this chart of banded fall warblers. Notice that the steady decline in numbers begins on about September 10. Aside from Yellow-rumped Warblers, the total number of warblers being banded drops over the next month from about 155 to 5. Note also how the propor-

tion of Yellow-rumped Warblers increases over this same period. By early October this species makes up half of the banded population.



These charts provide only a sampling of the information that may be derived from the accompanying table.

## BOS Alabama Swamp Field Trip April 1, 2001 by Gail Seamans

About 20 members and friends of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, hoping for a warm spring day to find waterfowl in the Oak Orchard Swamp were disappointed with the weather but not the birds. These hardy feathered fellows were there, perhaps not in good numbers of individuals but in good numbers of species. We found 54 species and that was good considering almost all still water was frozen as old man winter kept the ponds in his icy grip.

Our meeting at Cayuga Pool Overlook was rewarded by our seeing the new Bald Eagle's nest across the frozen pool in a small stand of trees easily visible without the spring leaves. A fly by of Tundra Swans was a welcome treat. The group then took a walk down the



Canal Feeder Road and had the excitement of seeing an adult Bald Eagle, within 300 feet, in a tree. It may have been a concerned member of the family of the new nest. The leader of the trip was also excited with the sighting of a shrike that he called a Loggerhead. The basis of his identification was that of a clear breast, with no barring and a small bill, By alerting Bob Spahn of the Genesee Ornithological Society and Willie D'Anna of our Society of the bird's location, each of those individuals called the bird a Northern Shrike. The face pattern, hooked beak and posture of the bird was that of a Northern and after study of many field guides by the leader he agrees with the better birders, Spahn and D'Anna.

A posting on Ontbirds, by Jean Iron about a Ron Pitway article, dated 30 Mar 01 warns that the spring identification of the two species Loggerhead and Northern is not as easy as the field guides indicate. He lists the following reasons for confusion of spring birds. 1. Northerns loose much of the barring on underparts due to wear. 2. Bill color of northerns becomes mostly black in spring. 3. Some adult Northerns have extensive black mask, even in loreal area. 4. In spring Northerns hunt invertebrates and frogs and often perch lower in trees. 5. Bill sizes on some Northerns appear smaller and some Loggerheads bills seem larger. Direct comparisons are rarely possible. 6. If the Shrike has a white rump it is probably a Northern and if the rump is gray, with little contrast to the gray back it is probably a Loggerhead. 7. If the shrike flicks its tail upward it's probably Northern. Loggerheads wag their tails down similar to an Eastern Phoebe. 8. If the bird has colored bands it's a Loggerhead! (There are so few Loggerhead in the east now that a study is being done by birders in Ontario and they have banded some of the few in our area, Thus a banded bird would have a good chance of being one of the banded Loggerheads from southern Ontario.

As the group toured the swamp area, thanks to word from Brenden Klick, we found a Great Horned Owl on its nest. Then looking at all of the larger pools which were still frozen, excepting the very edges of some, we were able to add an occasional duck or goose to the list. The group toured the swamp area and on to the West Shelby Road where we found a large flock of geese that were feeding on a farmer's crop of winter wheat. A lone goose was laying down and after careful observation of all of the birds the group zeroed in on the sleeping bird and it got up to show us his blotchy breast, pinkish-orange legs and feet and white fronted face behind the orange bill. These were all the field marks needed to identify this western visitor the Greater White-fronted Goose.

At a loss to find any open water on the wild life refuges, we were lead by Aron Kehlenbeck to the Oakfield area where he had earlier found, on the Phelps farm, a large flock of Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings and Northern Horned Larks. The field had the remnants of last years combined pea vines making it difficult to see the birds easily. When the frustration of seeing these birds easily became overbearing we went to the Gyp Pond, a reservoir of the United States Gypsum Company. This pond was ice free because the company sends water up from the mines and its temperature and velocity opened the icy surface for birds to land, feed and rest. We were delighted to see a close Red-throated Loon in basic plumage with some head feathering changing to alternate plumage. We did not see big numbers of waterfowl but a good selection of the species. Also seen were A Horned Grebe in alternate plumage, the Long Tailed Duck and the Ruddy Duck.

The elevation of the Gyp Pond dike allowed us to see off to the northwest, again on the Phelps farm, where we saw several hundred Canada Geese and about 250 Snow Geese. Tom Harper and Bill Watson had preceded the group and had located a somewhat smaller white goose that they thought might be a Ross's Goose. The distance, overcast sky and haze of the day made observation difficult and the group walked down the old West Shore Railroad right of way and could see the geese better. Some could see that one of the individuals was somewhat smaller and by very careful observation of the bill shape, the feathered area of the face was straighter than the faces of the Snow Geese and the bird lacked the grinning patch of the Snow Goose. This individual was called a Ross's Goose by some and others felt they would like to have a better specimen to call a Ross's Goose. The new Sibley Guide and Waterfowl by Madge and Burn has the Snow Goose almost twice as heavy and 5" longer than Ross's Goose. This difference was not apparent to some of our group.

The birds found were: Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Ross's Goose, Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Northern



Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal,

Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch and House Sparrow.

Table of Farrell Banding Results (from page 36)

Species	Aug 21-26	Aug 27-31	Sept 1-5	Sept 6-10	Sept 11-15	Sep 16-20	Sept 21-25	Sept 26-30	Oct 1-5	Oct 6-10	Oct 11-15	TOTAL
Mourning Dove	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	4	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	3	1	15
Hairy Woodpecker	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	7
Northern Flicker	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
Eastern Wood Pewee	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4	3	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	16
Acadian Flycatcher	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trail's Flycatcher	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	3	5	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
Eastern Phoebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Blue-headed Vireo	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	8
Philadelphia Vireo	2	2	2	5	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	20
Red-eyed Vireo	18	6	9	5	7	5	8	0	0	0	1	58
Blue Jay	0	1	2	2	7	5	4	0	6	2	4	32
Black-capped Chickadee	17	20	19	14	21	9	13	13	7	9	19	159
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	2	3	11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown Creeper	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	2	0	1	10
House Wren	0	4	4	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	15
Winter Wren	0	1	2	0	2	4	4	6	6	6	2	33
Golden-cr Kinglet	0	0	0	0	2	1	20	8	26	15	26	98
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	1	4	10	20	18	25	20	28	126
Veery	3	7	12	6	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	39
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	0	0	1	3	10	9	4	8	2	1	37
Swainson's Thrush	3	2	10	12	30	20	24	12	13	3	0	129
Hermit Thrush	0	0	1	1	1	1	9	15	49	40	57	174
Wood Thrush	3	6	3	7	11	9	4	3	1	0	0	46
American Robin	1	4	5	4	6	5	4	3	9	10	9	60
Gray Catbird	10	29	38	53	32	27	18	9	7	1	1	224
Brown Thrasher	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	14
Cedar Waxwing	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	12	21
Blue-winged Warbler	1	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Golden-winged Warbler	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	6	0	0	0	11
""Brewster's Warbler""	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Tennessee Warbler	7	3	5	17	11	5	5	3	1	0	2	57
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	6
Nashville Warbler	9	5	6	17	5	8	6	6	2	0	1	65
Northern Parula	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	21	2	5	2	3	4	6	2	0	0	0	44
Magnolia Warbler	34	35	27	27	25	25	18	7	1	0	1	200
Cape May Warbler	10	12	7	12	8	5	8	1	1	0	0	64
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	1	1	3	5	8	11	7	6	5	0	1	47
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0	1	5	8	3	12	12	28	7	10	86
Bl-thr Green Warbler	1	2	3	4	7	10	5	3	2	1	0	38
Blackburnian Warbler	17	1	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Western Palm Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yellow Palm Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	13	6	7	11	16	4	7	3	0	0	0	65
Blackpoll Warbler	7	0	2	2	6	3	5	0	0	0	0	25
Black-and-White Warbler	0	1	1	5	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	1
American Redstart	5	10	4	11	8	6	3	1	0	1	0	50
Ovenbird	6	13	8	15	7	8	7	4	0	1	1	69
Northern Waterthrush	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
Connecticut Warbler	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Mourning Warbler	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
Common Yellowthroat	7	20	11	12	12	15	7	0	2	1	0	86
Hooded Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wilson's Warbler	0	3	6	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	17
Canada Warbler	19	3	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	30
Scarlet Tanager	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Eastern Towhee	2	2	1	1	5	6	2	0	4	1	4	28
Field Sparrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
Savannah Sparrow	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Fox Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Song Sparrow	2	7	4	3	4	8	4	6	7	10	7	61
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	3	1	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	11
Swamp Sparrow	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	7
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	1	0	5	14	27	37	58	40	36	218
White-crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	4
Dark-eyed Junco	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	8	7	5	16	41
Northern Cardinal	5	6	5	5	4	4	5	1	1	4	8	48
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	4	3	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	15
Common Grackle	1	0	0	0	2	2	17	3	1	0	1	27
Baltimore Oriole	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Purple Finch	2	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	3	1	13
House Finch	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	5	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
TOTALS	279	254	241	294	311	277	330	211	295	190	262	2928



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Return Service Requested

## June/July/August Calendar

**June 8: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner.** Leader: Bill Burch 773-3690. Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6 p.m. We will eat in the Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colburne, Ontario. This is at 182 West Street, on the west bank of the Welland Canal. Then we go to Wilson Road, which is four miles west of town. Reservations are appreciated.

**June 13: BOS Meeting and Picnic.** (Tifft Nature Preserve; 6:30 p.m.). Bring a picnic dinner for the final meeting before the summer break.

**July 22: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie.** Leader: Richard Byron. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will carpool from there.

**August 19: August Shorebird Count.** Contact: Terry Yonker. 6:30 am. The count will cover 10 reaches of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned to each reach. If you have questions or want to volunteer contact Terry Yonker at (716) 745-9129 or email: tyonker@compuserve.com

**August 26 (tentative as of 05/18/01): Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie.** Leader: Richard Byron. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will carpool from there.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: April

by Bill Watson

This April was very dry and mild. It was the driest in 66 years with only 1.26 inches of rain, less than half the normal monthly rainfall of 2.87 inches. The average temperature, a pleasant 47.3 °F was 2.1 °F warmer than normal.

The warm mild weather brought in a plethora of early arrivals and rarities. A remarkable 58 verification reports were accepted by the BOS statisticians.

Thirteen species of warblers arrived in April, the most since 1994. There were seven accepted verification reports of the following unusually early warbler species: Nashville Warblers (2), Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird (2), Louisiana Waterthrush and Common Yellow-throat.

Although we expect a few warbler species by the end of April, it is very unusual to have three warbler species by April 14. Peak southwest winds of 45 m.p.h. on April 12 were possibly responsible for the ten day early Black-throated Green Warbler seen at Tifft Nature Preserve by Debbie Sharon on April 12. This observation is an amazing six days earlier than

the previous early record for a Black-throated Green Warbler seen by Alice and Bill McKale on April 18, 1981. The same southerly wind during the second week of the month could have been responsible for the early Louisiana Waterthrush heard by Mike Davis and Jack Skalicky on April 14.

The same southerly wind caused an early Broad-winged Hawk and Common Nighthawk migration during the first half of April. The same day Debbie Sharon was observing the extremely early Black-throated Green Warbler, Brendan Klick documented 59 unusually early Broad-winged Hawks at the Hamburg Hawk Watch! On April 22, 820 Broad-winged Hawks were counted there by Fran Rew and others. In Kenmore, Joe Thill recorded eleven Common Nighthawks on April 10 and 11; they were nearly a month early. To find earlier Common Nighthawks one must go back to April 7, 1947 (Angola) and April 6, 1895 (Brockport), but these were only single individuals. Is there still hope for this declining species of special concern?

What could be more spectacular than thirteen warbler species in April? The answer: four vireo species. Only twice before, in 1984 and 1994, have four been found during this month in the BOS territory. On April 14 an unusually early Blue-headed Vireo was found by Mike Davis and Jack Skalicky in Wales. On April 28, Mike Morgante found an unusually early Yellow-throated Vireo at the Williamsville Glen, now Amherst State Park. A White-eyed Vireo was documented by Kurt Fox at Tifft Nature Preserve on April 27. Then on April 26 and 27, Warbling Vireos appeared at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, and Beaver Island State Park.

Other avian species and the dates of their unusually early arrivals that required verification reports are: Great Crested Flycatcher, April 23; Eastern Kingbird, April 23; Barn Swallow, April 4 and 5; House Wren, April 15; Swainson's Thrush, April 28; and Lincoln's Sparrow, April 25. Strong southerly winds through April 20-24 were responsible for bringing in some of

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these early arrivals as well as the early vireos and many of the warblers.

Besides being a month of early arrivals, April is a month of rare birds and this April was not an exception to that rule. The April rarities were apparent the first day of the month.

By the end of the first day of April, Ross's Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, the rare small subspecies of Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis hutchinsii*, and two different inland Red-throated Loons had all been recorded.

The immature Ross's Goose was found in a flock of 305 Snow Geese in Oakfield. The association was fortunate for it allowed the observers to compare size, shape, and color

of the Ross's Goose with immature Snow Geese. The Ross's Goose was much smaller, had a short thick neck, a shorter stubbier bill that lacked a dark cutting edge, and a pattern of gray that was very different and generally lighter than that of the Snow Geese. This Ross's Goose was not the same one seen by Brendan Klick the previous day. The bird he saw was an adult and was with a larger flock of Snow Geese. It is surprising that two of these very rare birds could be seen at the same location on two consecutive days.

The White-fronted Goose was also unusual in that it stayed at the same location for an extended period of time. This one remained until the BOS Count on April 8, and became only the second White-fronted Goose to be recorded on an April Count in 23 years.

Sandhill Cranes and Golden Eagles have continued to increase in abundance over the last decade. Sandhill Cranes were observed on the BOS April Count in sec-

tions 3 and 20, on April 5 and 23 at the Hamburg Hawkwatch, and on April 21 in the Town of Porter. It appears that NYSARC was justified in removing this species from the list of birds requiring a written verification.

Golden Eagles were documented at the Hamburg Hawkwatch on April 14 and over Buffalo on April 20. On the April Count another two Golden Eagles were recorded in section 5. These are the first Golden Eagles to be reported on an April Count in 23 years.

There were three solitary inland reports of Red-throated Loons at Oakfield, Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, and Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area. The season's only Eurasian Wigeon was observed at Windmill Marsh on the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area. The March Oregon Junco at the feeder in Eden Valley stayed until April 4.

The Buffalo Peregrine Falcons continue to breed successfully. Bill Burch reports that there were two eggs by April 9 and four by April 18. Unfortunately only two hatched, one on May 14 and the other on May 16. Does anyone know what happened to the Peregrine Falcons that have been nesting in the gorge at Niagara Falls for the last two years? New York State and Canadian biologists would like to know.

At Motor Island, the heron rookery has once again expanded. The Black-crowned Night-Heron colony expanded from the southern tip of the island as far north as the tennis courts. Great Blue Herons now completely cover Motor Island.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Senior Wildlife Biologist Mark Kandel reports that on April 27, 108 Great Blue Heron nests, 102 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, 8 Great Egret nests and 70 Canada Goose nests were counted there.

At Iroquois NWR the Bald Eagles at Mohawk Pool laid eggs on March 1 and 4 (much earlier than the March 16 early egg date in the *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Handbook for Workers*) but unfortunately on approximately April 15 and 18 these two eggs disappeared. Iroquois Outdoor Recreation Planner, Dorothy Gerhart also reports that the new Bald Eagle nest at Cayuga Pool had one eaglet that was banded on May 17 by Mike Allen. It was also good to see that two Ospreys were back at the Ring-neck Marsh nest after having their nest stolen from them by breeding Canada Geese last year.

In the Southern Tier in April, NYSDEC Wildlife Technician Dan Dougherty reported a record ten Osprey nests and four Bald Eagle nests near the Allegany Reservoir and River, and an additional two Bald Eagle nests along the Cattaraugus River.



# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Red-throated Loon	1F	1	<u>Oakfield</u>	Watson
"	1F	1	<u>Batavia WWTP</u>	Yoerg
"	22	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	29	1	<u>Oak Orchard W.M.A.</u>	Klick
Common Loon	1	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	1,7	5,6	Oakfield	Morgante
"	25	1	Alfred	Brooks
Horned Grebe	7	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	13	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Red-necked Grebe	14;22	1;1	Shadigee	Fox; D'Anna et al
"	14	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Fox
D.-crested Cormorant	7F	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	9	22	Hamburg	Watson
"	26	878	Strawberry Motor Isls	Watson
*American Bittern	7F,14	1,1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	9;16	1;2	Machias	Klick et al; DeSha
"	21	1	Snyder	Klick
Great Blue Heron	5,15	61,68	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
*Great Egret	5,15,26,29	5,9,13,16	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	6	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	6	1	Alexander	Fox
"	9	2	Hamburg	Holmes
"	13	1	Ellicottville	LeBlanc
"	15	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Green Heron	15	1	Newstead	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	1	Great Baehre Swamp	Skalicky
Black-cr. Night-Heron	5,15,23	23,48,83	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	12	4	Grand Island	Landon
Turkey Vulture	1	905	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	4	675	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
<u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	1,7	1	Shelby	Morgante
"	1	1	Shelby	Watson, D'Anna et al
Snow Goose	1,7	305,1	Oakfield	Morgante
"	1	23	Alabama	Watson
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1	1 imm.	Oakfield	Watson, D'Anna et al
Canada Goose				
<u>B. c. hutchinsii</u>	1	1	Shelby	D'Anna et al
"	1	2	Alabama	D'Anna et al
"	22	1	Albion	Klick
Mute Swan	14	1	Olcott	Fox
"	20	1	Barre	Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Tundra Swan	1	5	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2	3	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	22,29	1,1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
* <u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	20	1 male	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Fox
American Wigeon	22	350	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
Northern Shoveler	22	80	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
Northern Pintail	22	280	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
Redhead	11	4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick et al
Lesser Scaup	29	90	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Surf Scoter	22	3	Somerset	D'Anna, Guthrie
Long-tailed Duck	1	2	Oakfield	Watson et al
"	1	2	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2	4	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	11	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick et al
Bufflehead	14;29	101;50	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Seamans
Ruddy Duck	11	35	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	13	2	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	14;29	288;82	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Seamans
Osprey	1	2	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	10,11	10,13	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	11,22,29	2 @ nest	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	21	1	Machias	DeSha
"	22,29	2,2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
Bald Eagle	1	1	Strawberry Island	Watson
"	1	2	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	2	2	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	4,11,23,27	1,2,4,1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	7	3 imm.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	22	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	44	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Northern Goshawk	1	1 im.	<u>Tifft N.P.</u>	Klick
"	3	1	<u>Hamburg Hawkwatch</u>	Rew
"	14	1	<u>Snyder</u>	Klick
"	14	1	<u>Hartland</u>	Fox
"	29	1	<u>Sardinia</u>	Fox
*Broad-winged Hawk	14,16	1,1	Ward, Alfred	Brooks
"	<u>12</u>	59	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Klick
"	<u>12</u>	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	14	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	14,22,23	541,820,535	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Red-tailed Hawk	1	140	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	Oakfield	Morgante
"	1	3	Farmersville	DeSha
"	5,15	1,1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	29	1	Porter	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	1	Yates	Klick
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	14	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew
"	20	1	Buffalo	Klick
Merlin	19	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
Peregrine Falcon	18	1	Buffalo	Petrik
"	23	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
*Virginia Rail	20F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Fox



<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	1	Tillman W.M.A.	Morgante
*Sora	20F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Fox
"	23	1	Tifft N.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Zebehazy
*Common Moorhen	22F	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
"	26	1	Alexander	Fox
American Coot	14	97	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
* <u>Sandhill Crane</u>	5;23	1;1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	D'Anna et al; Watson et al
"	21	1	Porter	T O'Donnell et al
Greater Yellowlegs	11	25	Royalton	Klick et al
"	15	35	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22,29	35,22	Ridgeway	Klick
Lesser Yellowlegs	14	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Fox
"	22,29	18,6	Ridgeway	Klick
*Solitary Sandpiper	21F	1	Alexander	Fox
"	28	1	Hamburg	Andrle
*Spotted Sandpiper	23F	1	Tifft N.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Upland Sandpiper	23F	2	Hartland	Potter, D'Anna
Pectoral Sandpiper	11	6	Royalton	Klick et al
"	16	2	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	14	Ridgeway	Klick, Harris
"	29	36	Arcade	Fox
*Dunlin	14F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Fox
"	16	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
Common Snipe	14;29	3;3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante; Wojewodzki
"	14	29	Elba	Fox
"	29	1	Batavia	Seamans
Little Gull	21	1	Buffalo	Potter, D'Anna
Bonaparte's Gull	2	17	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	11	1	Machias	Klick et al
"	14	8	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	14	10	Snyder	Klick
"	20	5000	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson
"	24	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Ring-billed Gull	29	1 w. egg	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Iceland Gull	20,21	5,3	Buffalo	D'Anna, Potter
Lesser Black-b. Gull	20,21	7,2	Buffalo	D'Anna, Potter
Glaucous Gull	20,21	5,3	Buffalo	D'Anna, Potter
Caspian Tern	13F	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick, Watson
"	22	13	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Klick, Harris
Common Tern	15F	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20	1	Buffalo Harbor	Mueller
"	29	918	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Landon, Yonker
Short-eared Owl	16	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Yates	Watson
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	9	1	Yorkshire	Klick et al
*Common Nighthawk	<u>10F,11</u>	5,6	Kenmore	Thill
*Chimney Swift	20F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Klick
"	27	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Landon
Red-headed Wdpkr.	22,29	2,2	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Klick, Harris

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	1	Point Gratiot	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Canadaway Creek N.S.	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	13	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	<u>23F</u>	1	Hamburg	Yoerg
"	29	1	Bennington	Seamans
"	29	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
*Eastern Kingbird	<u>23F</u>	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Yoerg
"	27	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Northern Shrike	7L	1	Aurora	Zebehazy
* <u>White-eyed Vireo</u>	27F	1	Tifft N.P.	Fox
"	28	1	Tifft N.P.	Wojewodzki
"	29	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	30	1	Goat Island	Roberson
*Yellow-thr. Vireo	<u>28F</u>	1	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
*Blue-headed Vireo	<u>14F</u>	2	Wales	Davis, Skalicky
"	23	2	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Warbling Vireo	26F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Klick
"	26F	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	27	2	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
Common Raven	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	14	3	<u>Sardinia</u>	Wojewodzki
"	15	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Fox
"	28	1	Otto	D'Anna, Potter
*Purple Martin	14F	1	Wales	Skalicky
Tree Swallow	2	94	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc, DeSha
N. Rough-w. Swallow	11	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
"	13	12	Tifft N.P.	Klick, Watson
*Bank Swallow	28F	6	Tillman W.M.A.	Morgante
*Barn Swallow	<u>4F</u>	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, D'Anna
"	<u>5</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
Carolina Wren	1-25	2 max.	Tifft N.P.	several observers
"	7	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	19,27	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	28	1	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
*House Wren	<u>15F;22</u>	1;1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg; D'Anna et al
"	23	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	23	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Marsh Wren	29F	4	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	10	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	13	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	14F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Fox
"	15	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Yoerg
*Veery	30F	1	Hamburg	Andrle
*Swainson's Thrush	<u>28F</u>	1	Gerry	Rew
Hermit Thrush	20	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	21	4	Times Beach N.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Wood Thrush	23F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
*Gray Catbird	22	1	Boston	Skalicky, Davis
"	27	1	Hamburg	Klick
Northern Mockingbird	7	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	9	1	Hamburg	Holmes
"	29	2	Tonawanda	Hess



<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Brown Thrasher	14F	1	Newstead	Klick
"	15	1	Amherst	Skalicky
American Pipit	22	<u>24</u>	Boston	Skalicky, Davis
*Nashville Warbler	<u>23F</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	<u>23F</u>	1	Hamburg	Yoerg
"	26	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Klick
"	27	1	Alfred	Brooks
*Northern Parula	30	1	Wilson	Potter
*Yellow Warbler	23F,24	1,3	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	24	1	Wheatfield	Potter
Yellow-r. Warbler	6F	1	Youngstown	Landon
*Blk.-thr. Green Warb.	<u>12F</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	Sharon
"	23	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	28	2	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
"	28	12	Zoar Valley MUA	D'Anna, Potter
*Blackburnian Warbler	27F	1	Bush Hill S.F.	Chilton
"	29	2	Sardinia	Fox
Pine Warbler	21F;26	2;2	Tifft N.P.	Klick; Watson
"	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	22	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	27	4	Bush Hill S.F.	Chilton
"	29	2	Sardinia	Fox
*Palm Warbler	21F	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	23	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	23	1	Hamburg	Yoerg
*Black-and-white Warb.	23F,24	1,1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	28	2	Williamsville Glen	Morgante
"	28	3	Zoar Valley MUA	Potter, D'Anna
*Ovenbird	<u>22F</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	<u>23</u>	1	Hamburg	Yoerg
*Northern Waterthrush	28F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Seamans
"	28F	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	30	1	Tonawanda	Hess
*Louisiana Waterthrush	<u>14F</u>	1	Wales	Davis, Skalicky
"	22	3	Boston	Skalicky, Davis
*Common Yellowthroat	<u>28F</u>	1	Zoar Valley MUA	Potter et al
Eastern Towhee	12F	1	Snyder	Klick
"	13	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	16-22	1	Buffalo	Mueller
Chipping Sparrow	9	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
Field Sparrow	11	1	Alfred	Brooks
Vesper Sparrow	4	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
*Savannah Sparrow	5F	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
*Grasshopper Sparrow	27F	1	Alexander	Fox
*Henslow's Sparrow	27F	4	Lancaster	Fox
Fox Sparrow	10-29	7 reports	throughout WNY	many observers
*Lincoln's Sparrow	<u>25F</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	Chilton
Swamp Sparrow	6	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
White-cr. Sparrow	30	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	1-4	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Lapland Longspur	7	3	Oakfield	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	30F	1	Colden	J. Landau
"	30F	1	Wheatfield	D'Anna, Potter
*Bobolink	30F	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Rusty Blackbird	11	<u>350</u>	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
*Baltimore Oriole	27F	1	Tifft N.P.	Fox
Purple Finch	7	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	10-30	10 max.	Colden(f)	Wojewodzki
"	14	5	Wales	Skalicky
"	15	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	20	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	21,22	1	Youngstown	Landon
"	26	3	Bennington	Seamans
*White-w. Crossbill	14	1	Ward	Brooks
Pine Siskin	2	2	Allegany S.P.	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	8,14	1,4	Ward	Brooks
"	14	1	Wales	Skalicky
"	14	1	Pfeiffer N.C.	LeBlanc
"	14	1	Sardinia	Wojewodzki
"	15	6	Bush Hill S.F.	Fox
"	21;25	2;1	Colden	Wojewodzki;J. Landau
"	29	10	Yates	Klick
*Evening Grosbeak	13	4	Attica Reservoir	Fox

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 137

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue: 61

Total for the year 2001: 198

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

## Help Wanted!

*from Karen Landau*

*"I remember reading about that in the Prothonotary a couple of years ago, but I can't seem to find it...."*

We'd like to try to remedy this all too familiar frustration by creating a yearly index that would be available to our members. However we need to know exactly what you feel should be included – article titles, authors, count information, field trips? We would appreciate hearing your ideas; you can call Karen Landau at (716) 941-3869 or email her at [kjlandau@local-net.com](mailto:kjlandau@local-net.com).

We are also seeking volunteers to go through a year (or more) of old Prothonotary's & fill out a standardized sheet which will be provided, listing information to be catalogued. We will then use those sheets to do the data entry for the index. When complete, the index will be available in a hard copy or as an Excel spread-

sheet. It will then be easy to keep the index updated by adding each issue as it is printed.

Please consider whether you can help in any way with this project which will benefit all current & future members of BOS.

## Note of Thanks

*from David Cooper*

Thanks are due those volunteers of BOS who participated as field trip leaders to the school children in grades 5 through 9 from the northeast, including Canada, attending the 4th Great Lakes Biennial Summit on May 11. Let's hope you have ignited a latent interest in birds and conservation. Those people are Bill Bogacki, David Cooper, Mike Hamilton, Lynne Landon, Mike Morgante, Betsy Potter, Gerry Rising, Gail Seamans.



# Report of the 2001 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 8, 2001

Coordinator: Ed Fuchs, Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Note: Sectional details for the April Spring Count 2001, in Microsoft Excel format, are available from Michael Hamilton.

**Weather Synopsis:** On the evening before the count a strong low pressure was located well north of Western New York trailing a cold front through the Upper Great Lakes. Much of the area experienced rain and scattered thunderstorms prior to midnight in advance of the passage of a warm front. Temperatures rose steadily during the early morning hours as the area was located within the warm sector between the warm front and advancing cold front. The cold front passed through the Buffalo area at approximately 9 am resulting in a wind shift and increased winds from the West Southwest, but little or no precipitation. Clearing skies, brisk winds and slowly falling temperatures characterized the remainder of the day over much of the count area.

## Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:45 AM

Sunset: 7:50 PM

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am		57	52	29.78	SSE12	Warm front passage
3:00 am		58	51	28.79	S12	
6:00 am		61	53	29.80	S14	
9:00 am		67	56	29.80	SSW19	Cold front passage
12:00 pm		66	55	29.80	WSW24	
3:00 pm		66	54	29.78	WSW 23	
6:00 pm		58	44	29.79	WSW 16	
9:00 pm		48	40	29.85	SW8	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

## Loons - Ducks

Red-throated Loon	7	(3,4)	Blue-winged Teal	65
Common Loon	42		Northern Shoveler	149
Pied-billed Grebe	34		Northern Pintail	80
Horned Grebe	40		Green-winged Teal	260
Red-necked Grebe	1	(12)	Canvasback	187
Double-crested Cormorant	483		Redhead	44
Great Blue Heron	537		Ring-necked Duck	1,031
Great Egret	7	(4,5,9)	Greater Scaup	468
Blk.-crowned Night-Heron	264		Lesser Scaup	323
Turkey Vulture	4,514		unspecified scaup	139
Greater White-front. Goose	1	(4)	White-winged Scoter	46
Snow Goose	2	(5)	unspecified scoters	2 (1)
Canada Goose	18,088		Long-tailed Duck	134 (2,3,4)
Mute Swan	5	(6,10,20)	Bufflehead	1,838
Tundra Swan	28	(6,19,26)	Common Goldeneye	235
Wood Duck	280		Hooded Merganser	185
Gadwall	74		Common Merganser	519
American Wigeon	210		Red-breasted Merganser	2,182
American Black Duck	74		Ruddy Duck	87
Mallard	1,526		unspecified waterfowl	16 (17)

## Raptors - Coots

Osprey	43		Rough-legged Hawk	21
Bald Eagle	11		unspecified buteo	1 (20)
Northern Harrier	91		Golden Eagle	2 (5)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	180		American Kestrel	178
Cooper's Hawk	46		Merlin	1 (5)
Northern Goshawk	1	(4)	Peregrine Falcon	1 (11)
Red-shouldered Hawk	34		unspecified falcons	1 (4)
Red-tailed Hawk	446		unspecified hawks	1 (12)

Ring-necked Pheasant	27	Sora	1	(9)
Ruffed Grouse	13	American Coot	383	
Wild Turkey	252	Sandhill Crane	2	(3,20)

#### Plovers – Terns

Killdeer	491	Herring Gull	2,679	
Greater Yellowlegs	27 (4,5,6)	Iceland Gull	3	(2,3,7)
Lesser Yellowlegs *F	6 (18,26)	Glaucous Gull	1	(3)
Pectoral Sandpiper *F	1 (20)	Great Black-backed Gull	80	
Common Snipe	24	unspecified gulls	300	(11)
American Woodcock	32	Caspian Tern *F	12	
Little Gull	11 (2,3)	Common Tern *F	8	(9,10)
Bonaparte's Gull	12,616	unspecified tern	1	(3)
Ring-billed Gull	28,403			

#### Doves - Swallows

Rock Dove	1,610	Northern Flicker	442	
Mourning Dove	1,933	Pileated Woodpecker	19	
Eastern Screech-Owl	2 (3,12)	unspecified woodpecker	1	(12)
Great Horned Owl	16	Eastern Phoebe	437	
Barred Owl	2 (20,28)	Northern Shrike	2	(22,26)
Long-eared Owl	3 (3,5)	Blue Jay	881	
Short-eared Owl	2 (3,6)	American Crow	3,902	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3 (3,28)	Common Raven	14	(18,26,28)
Belted Kingfisher	86	Horned Lark	122	
Red-headed Woodpecker	4 (5,16)	Purple Martin	40	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	58	Tree Swallow	1,290	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	52	N.Rough-winged Swallow *F	4	
Downy Woodpecker	311	Barn Swallow	34	
Hairy Woodpecker	52			

#### Tits - Waxwings

Black-capped Chickadee	1,139	Eastern Bluebird	193	
Tufted Titmouse	105	Hermit Thrush	9	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	37	American Robin	9,449	
White-breasted Nuthatch	158	Gray Catbird *	2	(14,26)
Brown Creeper	63	Northern Mockingbird	21	
Carolina Wren	14	European Starling	10,863	
Winter Wren	16	American Pipit	49	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	305	Cedar Waxwing	1,064	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14			

#### Warblers - House Sparrows

Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	Lapland Longspur	1	(5)
Eastern Towhee	16	Northern Cardinal	630	
American Tree Sparrow	186	Red-winged Blackbird	8,233	
Chipping Sparrow *F	82	Eastern Meadowlark	172	
Field Sparrow *F	21	Rusty Blackbird	525	
Vesper Sparrow	12	Common Grackle	8,190	
Savannah Sparrow	48	Brown-headed Cowbird	2,176	
Fox Sparrow	24	Purple Finch	125	
Song Sparrow	2,290	House Finch	703	
Swamp Sparrow	21	Pine Siskin	5	(28)
White-throated Sparrow	64	American Goldfinch	755	
White-crowned Sparrow	4 (19,20)	House Sparrow	1,234	
Dark-eyed Junco	1,076	unspecified birds	54	(10,12,20)
unspecified sparrows	10 (20)			



**SUMMARY INFORMATION:**    **Total Species Observed – 139**  
                                      **Total Individual Birds Observed – 142,125**  
                                      **Number of Observers – 228**

**COMPARATIVE INFORMATION:** Associated charts, available from the Editor or Michael Hamilton, compares this year's records with those for 1992-2001 and those for 1979-2001. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2001 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

**INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1979:**

Highest count: Great Blue Heron, 537 (double the mean); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 264 (4 times the mean); Turkey Vulture, 4,514 (10 times the mean); Northern Saw-whet Owl, 3 (tied for the highest in 1996); Eastern Phoebe, 437 (3 times the mean)

First count sighting: Golden Eagle, 2

Lowest count: Long-tailed Duck, 134 (one tenth the mean); Common Snipe, 24 (one fifth the mean); Evening Grosbeak, 0 (only the third time none have been seen – mean is 793)

Miscellaneous: Greater White-fronted Goose, 1 (only other sighting was one in 1990; Sandhill Crane, 2 (fourth sighting: 1 each in 1992 and 1995 and three in 1993)

**OBSERVERS:** (Section compilers are printed in bold face.)

Section 1: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Jim Wojewodski, Terry Yonker

Section 2: Gordon Bellerby, **John Black**, Brad Clements, Kayo Roy, Maggie Smiley, Al Smith, Gene St. Croix, Paulette St. Croix

Section 3: Bill Broderick, **Willie D'Anna**, Jerry Farrell, Julie Horne, Bill Horne, Betsy Potter, Vickie Rothman

Section 4: Dr. Edward Crohn, Brendan Klick., Patrick Markham, Mark Schlacter, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth, **William Watson**

Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Peggy Christensen, Richard Christensen, Don Harris, Morgan Jones, Aron Khelebeck Sr., **Brendan Klick**, Robert Lipp

Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, Sue O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell

Section 7: John Filor, Edward Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, **Robert Wagner**

Section 8: Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**

Section 9: Pat Bogan, Mandy Galas, Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, David Mark, Debbie Milleville, **Gerry Rising**, Chuck Rosenburg

Section 10: Donna Deleon, Robert Deleon, **Donald Roberson**, John Welte, Martha Welte

Section 11: **Michael Davis**, Jane Heyer, Marie Johnson, Alice McKale, Jack Skalicky, Margaret Stewart

Section 12: **Ann M. Bauer**, Marion Bee, Paul Fuhrmann, Elizabeth Johnson, Tom Harper, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Marlene Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Jr., Steve Taylor, Donna Wieand

Section 13: Douglas Beattie, Elaine Dart, Kurt Fox, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Aron Kehlenbeck Sr., **Gail Seamans**, Donald Thureau

Section 14: Lois Abbot, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobler, Phyl Hanson, Doug Happ, Bob Leonard, Nancy Vigyekas, Paul Vigyekas, Marge Vogel, **Barbara Walker**, Margaret Wooley

Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak

Section 16: Patricia Andrie, Robert Andrie, Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**

Section 17: Tom Koopman, **Bert Schweigert**

Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, James Landau, Karen Landau, Jeffrey Reed

Section 19: Barbara Cronk, **Alice Evans**, Dora Lilly, Ethan Lynch, Joan MacEwan, Bernard Mills, Louise Mills, Roger Nicholson, John Raybuck, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Linda Roth, Pauline Schmit, **Elaine Smith**, Marion Smith, Max Smith, Jay Wilson, Mrs. Jay Wilson, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson

Section 20: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Terry Mahoney, Richard Miga, Terry Mosher, Marilyn O'Connell, Tom O'Connell, Robert Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Tom Welch

Section 21: Ranjit Laha, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, **Bob Sundell**

Section 22: Len DeFransisco, Ranjit Laha, **Bob Sundell**

Section 23: Rosemary Angove, Len DeFransisco, Ranjit Laha, Ruth Lundin, Jean Pigman, Donna Simmons, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**

Section 24: **Tim Baird**

Section 25: No report

Section 26: Lou Bump, **Doris Burton**, Frances C Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann Scott, Morris Scott, Bruce Smalley

Section 27: Russell Allen, **Doris Burton**, Estella Cronauer, Audrey Dunham, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Helen Link, Lillian Simons, Jake Strong

Section 28: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Dan Babcock, Harold Babcock, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Warren Bouck, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, **Betsy Brooks**, Debbie Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Luke Donius, Ann Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, Walt Franklin, John Gradoni, Betty Kellog, Wayne Kellog, Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Cathy MacDonald, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lenny Osgood, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Beverly Perry, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Vivian Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Danielle Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Dan Rase, Cathy Sorochin, Terah Soule', Bruce Taggart, Mrs. Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Suzanne Wood



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## **July/August Calendar**

**July 22: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie.** Leader: Drew Campbell (692-9103). Meet 7:30 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will carpool from there.

**August 19: August Shorebird Count.** Contact: Terry Yonker. 6:30 am. The count will cover 10 reaches of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned to each reach. If you have questions or want to volunteer contact Terry Yonker at (716) 745-9129 or email: [tyonker@compuserve.com](mailto:tyonker@compuserve.com)

**August 26: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie.** Leader: TBA. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will carpool from there.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: May

by Gerry Rising

May continued the weather of April, excellent for gardeners, baseball players and golfers; rotten for birders. The 59 °F temperature average for the month was 2 °F above average, but even that disguised the mild temperatures of the early days. The temperature averaged 9 °F above normal for the first 11 days. And with virtually no rain. That same period produced only a tenth of an inch of precipitation. The total for the month, 4.3 inches, was more than an inch above the historical average, but fortunately for the May 20 Count, almost half of that fell on the 21st and 22nd; on only four of the first 20 days was there measurable precipitation. This pleasant (for non-birders) weather produced the heaviest foliage and the worst local passerine migration observation opportunities I can recall.

The winds also suited migrants but not us. On 14 of the first 20 days, the winds were southerly and moderate and this pattern continued through the rest of the month as well. As a result there were none of those fallouts of warblers for which birders wait years. The migrants simply drifted through. Goat Island, normally a warbler trap of high quality, was a complete

already here days and in some cases even weeks ahead of their normal arrival dates.

But when a Boreal Owl shows up at Tifft Nature Preserve, the first Erie County record for this species, the month cannot be considered all bad. This bird of the northern forests appeared for only one day, May 6th, before moving on, but the word was broadcast and dozens of birders had an opportunity to see it, most for the first time. (I should have expected this appearance, however. I had traveled 300 miles to record my first Boreal Owl on Amherst Island just 4 months earlier.)

Another reason you cannot completely discount this May is the 201 species recorded on the May Count, just short of the record 203 recorded in 1996 and well above the 181 average over the 65 years. Jim Landau's report (*q.v.*) summarizes the high and low counts for individual species; I note only the 27 species for which only one or two individuals were recorded. This indicates how fragile are those count totals.

Here then is a quick pass through other observations this month.

Lynne Landon and Jim Wojewodzki found a late Red-necked Grebe in Lake Ontario on the Count.

The pattern of overshoot southern herons continued this year with Snowy Egret and Tricolored Heron appearing in Canada and a Glossy Ibis at Iroquois. I cite here with kudos the superb color photographs that accompany Kayo Roy and Alan J. Smith's verification report for the tricolor. (Additional photos accompanied the report by Kayo and others of a Franklin's Gull.) Although these pictures appear to have been taken with a standard camera, hopefully the advent of digital imaging will produce more of this kind of excellent on-the-spot observation-confirming evidence. Meanwhile the Great Egrets on Motor Island

- |    |   |
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bust this year. What birds were there you couldn't see anyway.

And of course April had stolen most of what thunder there was in this migration. What is there left to expect in May when 13 warblers, 4 vireos, and many other individual species like Great Crested Flycatcher are



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appear to be doing well.

One of the features of this region that contributes to the high May and Big Day Counts is the number of lingering diving ducks. This year eight species stayed until the 20th or later. But among dabblers what has happened to the Blue-winged Teal? I recall this species as a common nester (granted, that was in central New York) fifty years ago. Now their numbers here have declined precipitously. From an average of 96 per May Count through the 1970s, the corresponding average in the 1990s dropped to 47 and this year only 12 were recorded!

Despite the pleasant weather, the hawk migration as recorded at Lakeside Ceme-

tory, was well down from last year. If it weren't for Turkey Vultures, whose numbers appear to be increasing as fast as those of cormorants here, there wouldn't have been much for counters to do.

An examination of the Noteworthy Records for shorebirds points out once again how brief is their visit to their breeding grounds. Consider, for example, those 39 Black-bellied Plovers that passed through Clarence on the 30th. They're due back with their progeny in less than two months. This is indeed hurry-up time for these wind birds.

To me the best record for the month is the 52 Common Nighthawks at Wilson on the 27th. We may no longer have this delightful bird booming around the light standards at our evening baseball games but at least a small number of them are passing through during migration. And welcome back to the Loggerhead Shrike found mid-month in Carleton. With a few of

these passerine raptors breeding in Ontario, we have to wonder why we are missed. (Mockingbird, another southern immigrant but not nearly so rare here, is also much more common across the Niagara River.)

There are several species that signify to me the tapering off and in one case the finish of spring migration. The record this year of these birds is certainly mixed. Indigo Buntings appeared on the 2nd, a week early (but this has been happening in recent years) and Bay-breasted Warblers showed up on the 4th, about five days early. The only Olive-sided Flycatcher, for me the absolute end-of-season marker, was recorded on the Count May 20. I usually expect this species on Memorial Day weekend, but the 20th is well within expected times. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on May 18 was also normal. At the opposite extreme, the arrival of the Mourning Warbler on May 18 was about a week late. So much for trying to make sense of migration.



Kayo Roy

I must conclude this brief report with good news and bad news. The good news first: praise for BOS members and friends who turned in so many reports this month, and in particular so many verification reports (39!).

Finally, a sad message from Kayo Roy: "Many of you may perhaps know Maxine Myslowka, a Niagara area birder. Sunday morning [May 20] Maxine lost her courageous fight with cancer and succumbed to this dreaded disease. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to her memory should do so to any bird related charity of your choice. Perhaps an extra donation to the Baillie Birdathon might be appropriate." I suggest forwarding such a donation to Kayo Roy at 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, ON, Canada L0S 1E3



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	13	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
Common Loon	23	2	Carlton	Klick
"	27	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-necked Grebe	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
D.-crested Cormorant	5 ;26	47;44	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Klick
"	31	113	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
American Bittern	19	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	26	1	Tiffit N.P.	Andrle
*Least Bittern	11F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	15,19	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
"	26	1	Pomfret	Neveu
Great Egret	4-31	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5 ,24	16,18	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	13	5 nests	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	23	1	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Klick
"	26	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Galas
"	26	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
* <u>Snowy Egret</u>	21,23	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Roy
* <u>Tricolored Heron</u>	26-31	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Roy
* <u>Glossy Ibis</u>	15	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Mute Swan	5,16	1	Newstead	Watson et al
"	19	1	Olcott	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	23,28	1,1	Carlton	Klick et al
Gadwall	27	2	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
American Wigeon	27	4	Times Beach N.P.	D'Anna
"	27	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
American Black Duck	19	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
Northern Shoveler	19	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
Green-winged Teal	19	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	28	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
Canvasback	19; <u>26L</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante et al; Klick
Redhead	19	4	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
Ring-necked Duck	5;6	4;1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
"	15L	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Greater Scaup	6	20	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Lesser Scaup	5;19;26	43;3;1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante; Klick
"	19	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	25;27;31	2;2;1	Times Beach N.P.	Andrle; D'Anna; Klick
White-winged Scoter	19	1	Olcott	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	23,28L	2,2	Carlton	Klick et al
Black Scoter	1	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Long-tailed Duck	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19	10	Somerset	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	28L	4	Carlton	Klick, Harris
Bufflehead	5	27	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	13	2	Yates	Klick
Red-br. Merganser	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	28	6	Carlton	Klick, Harris
Common Merganser	28	4	Elma	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	1;6	1;1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna; Watson
"	5;19;26	78;10;9	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante; Klick
"	13;26	13;5	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Watson
"	27	1	Smithville WWTP, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Osprey	1-31	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	many observers
"	26	5	Carlton	Watson et al
"	29	1	Hamburg	Andrle
Bald Eagle	4,9	2,2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew et al
"	11	2 im.	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	11	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	15	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	26	1 ad.	Porter	D'Anna
"	26	5	Carlton	Watson, Galas
"	26	4	Pomfret	Neveu
Red-shouldered Hawk	19	1	Yates	D'Anna, Morgante, Taylor
"	25	1	Bennington	Seamans
"	26	1	Carlton	Watson et al
Broad-winged Hawk	26	219	Carlton	Watson, Galas
Peregrine Falcon	10	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	16	2 ad + 2 yg	Buffalo	Burch
"	19	2	Buffalo	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
Virginia Rail	23	1	Machias	DeSha
"	24	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Common Moorhen	13	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
American Coot	26	2 ad, 11 yg	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Galas
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	11	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Black-bellied Plover	23	1	Carlton	Fox
"	30	39	Clarence	Klick
*Semipalmated Plover	11F	1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante et al
"	11F	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	31	4	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Solitary Sandpiper	11	15	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
Upland Sandpiper	1	2	Somerset	Watson
"	15	2	Alabama	Morgante
*Whimbrel	23F	10	Burnaby, Ont.	Roy, A. Smith
"	27	2	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Ruddy Turnstone	13F,27	1,8	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	2	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Klick
*Sanderling	19F	1	Olcott	D'Anna, Morgante, Taylor
*Semipalm. Sandpiper	15F,19	2,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante et al
"	27	15	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
*Least Sandpiper	6F	8	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	6F	3	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	15	25	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante



<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
*White-r. Sandpiper	<u>13F</u>	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Dunlin	19	15	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	23	17	Carlton	Klick, Harris
"	27	20	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
*Short-b. Dowitcher	16F	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Common Snipe	26	1	Bird Swamp	Fox
*Franklin's Gull	<u>19</u>	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Roy
Little Gull	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>24</u>	2	Goat Island	Klick
Caspian Tern	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19;26	20;3	Olcott	D'Anna et al
"	27	3	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	4	Point Breeze, L. Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	28	1	Wilson	Klick, Harris
Common Tern	12	3	Bennington	Seamans
*Black Tern	11F	3	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	15	15	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Roy
*Black-billed Cuckoo	<u>2F</u>	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	15,19	2,2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	13F;19	2;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Morgante
"	15	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
*Boreal Owl	6	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle, Klick, Watson
"	6	1	Tifft N.P.	T. O'Donnell, D'Anna
Common Nighthawk	15	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick
"	23	2	Salamanca	LeBlanc
"	25	3	Egbertsville	Morgante
"	25	2	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	27	52	Wilson	T. O'Donnell
"	29	2	Newstead	Klick
*Ruby-t. Hummingbird	3F	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	4	1	Salamanca	LeBlanc
Red-headed Wdpkr.	8,22	2,1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
"	11	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	11,13	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	12	1	Amherst S.P.	Klick
"	13	2	Pt. Abino, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13	1	Yates	Klick
"	13	5	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Klick
"	15;26	2;1	Tifft N.P.	Rew; Andrle
"	28	1	Carlton	Klick, Harris
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	27	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
*Eastern Wood-Pewee	6F	1	Attica	Morgante
"	11	1	Tifft N.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	11	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
*Yellow-b. Flycatcher	18F	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	23	1	Carlton	Klick
"	23	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
"	26	1	Krull Park	D'Anna
"	26	1	Pomfret	Neveu
"	27	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	1	Newfane	Klick
"	29	1	Snyder	Klick
*Acadian Flycatcher	15F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
"	18	1	Attica	Morgante
"	26	2	Pomfret	Neveu
*Alder Flycatcher	15F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Alder/Willow Flyc.	<u>9</u>	1	Snyder	Klick
*Willow Flycatcher	<u>11F</u>	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	<u>14</u>	1	N. Tonawanda	Watson
"	15	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
*Least Flycatcher	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	1F	3	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
"	1F	1	Amherst S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
* <u>Loggerhead Shrike</u>	18,19	1	Carlton	Morgante
"	19	1	Carlton	D'Anna
White-eyed Vireo	3;6	1;1	Tifft N.P.	Watson; Klick(BOS)
Yellow-thr. Vireo	3	1	Lewiston	Potter, S. O'Donnell
"	26	1	Brant	Neveu
"	28	2	Elma	Morgante
*Philadelphia Vireo	<u>1F</u>	1	Amherst S.P.	Yoerg
"	10	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	11;15	1;1	Tifft N.P.	Morgante; Klick
"	18	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
*Red-eyed Vireo	4F	2	Pfeiffer N.C.	LeBlanc
"	5	2	Goat Island	Roberson
Common Raven	6	1	<u>Gouinlock's Pond</u>	Morgante
"	19	1	<u>Carlton Hill MUA</u>	Morgante, D'Anna
*Cliff Swallow	7F	2	Olean	Reed
"	10	40 +29 nests	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Carolina Wren	5	1	Amherst S.P.	Morgante
"	6	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick(BOS)
"	12	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
Golden-cr. Kinglet	26	1	Krull Park	D'Anna
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	13	2	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Klick, Harris
Veery	1	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
*Gray-cheeked Thrush	23F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick
"	26	2	Krull Park	D'Anna
"	26	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle et al
Swainson's Thrush	10;12	1;3	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Klick; Yoerg
"	12	1	Amherst S.P.	Klick
Wood Thrush	1	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	1	1	Alexander	J&K Fox
Northern Mockingbird	13;18	1;1	Yates	D'Anna; Morgante
"	26	1	Pomfret	Neveu
"	31	1	Tonawanda	Hess
American Pipit	13	15	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	19	2	Carlton	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
*Blue-winged Warbler	1F	1	Goat Island	Potter, D'Anna
"	1F	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
*Golden-wing. Warbler	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	5,6	1	Olean	DeSha, Reed
"	13;18,19	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Morgante et al



<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13	1	Shelby	Klick, Harris
*"Brewster's Warbler"	<u>4F</u>	1	Lancaster	Morgante
*Tennessee Warbler	4F,25	1,1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	6	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick(BOS)
*Orange-cr. Warbler	13	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
Northern Parula	1	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
"	3	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Chestnut-s. Warbler	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	1F	1	Salamanca	LeBlanc
*Magnolia Warbler	1F	2	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
"	3	3	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Cape May Warbler	6F,13	2,1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
"	13	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
*Blk.-thr. Blue Warbler	1F	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
"	1F	1	Amherst S.P.	Yoerg
"	1F	1	Napoli	LeBlanc
"	31	1	N. Tonawanda	Watson
Blackburnian Warbler	23	13	Carlton	Klick
"	31	1	N. Tonawanda	Watson
Pine Warbler	5,13,19, <u>26</u>	2,1,1,1	Krull Park	D'Anna, Potter
"	<u>5;26</u>	2;1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10,12	1,1	Bond Lake Park	Potter
"	<u>28</u>	1	Krull Park	Klick
*Prairie Warbler	2	F,10,23 2,3,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	3,23	3,3	Machias	DeSha
"	13;15	1;1	Tifft N.P.	Wojewodzki, Watson; Rew
"	23	1	Ellicottville	DeSha
"	26	1	Bliss	Fox
*Palm Warbler				
<u>D. p. hypochrysea</u>	3	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
*Bay-breasted Warbler	<u>4F</u>	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	<u>5;6</u>	1;1	Tifft N.P.	J. Landau; Yoerg
"	31	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick
*Blackpoll Warbler	16F	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
*Cerulean Warbler	11F	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	11F	6	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
*American Redstart	1F	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
Ovenbird	1	2	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	1	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
Northern Waterthrush	15,19	3,2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante et al
La. Waterthrush	24	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Klick
*Mourning Warbler	18F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	18F	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Common Yellowthroat	1	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	1	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
*Hooded Warbler	1F	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	6	1	Genesee County Park	Seamans
*Wilson's Warbler	11F	1	Tifft N.P.	Potter
"	13	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Carlton	Klick, Harris
*Canada Warbler	6F	1	Olean	Reed
"	12	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	31	1	N. Tonawanda	Watson
*Scarlet Tanager	2F	1	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
"	4	2	Goat Island	Roberson
Vesper Sparrow	2	1	Pembroke	Rising
"	6	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Morgante
"	19	1	Newfane	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	19	1	Bethany	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	28	1	Marilla	Morgante
Grasshopper Sparrow	6,19	1,2	Carlton Hill MUA	Morgante
"	6,19	1,1	Bethany	Morgante et al
"	19	2	Middlebury	Morgante, D'Anna, Taylor
"	25	1	Clarence	Klick
"	27	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Henslow's Sparrow	14,19,27	6,4,3	Lancaster	Morgante
"	25	1	Clarence	Klick
Lincoln's Sparrow	1-16	1 max.	Tifft N.P.	several observers
White-cr. Sparrow	1	6	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
*Indigo Bunting	2F	1	Lancaster	Morgante et al
"	2F	1	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
"	3	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Bobolink	1	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew
Rusty Blackbird	4	5	Tonawanda	Hess
*Orchard Oriole	5F	1	<u>Tifft N.P.</u>	K. Landau
"	11	1	<u>Oak Orchard W.M.A.</u>	Klick
"	13;19	2;1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter; Morgante
"	13	3	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
"	18	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	23	1	Carlton	Klick
"	24	1	<u>Hunter's Creek Park</u>	Klick
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna
"	1	2	Amity	Pitzrick
"	1	1	Marilla	Holmes
"	1	1	Salamanca	LeBlanc
White-w. Crossbill	23	2	Carlton	Klick
Pine Siskin	1	1	Napoli	LeBlanc
"	4	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	15	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Morgante
"	23-31	5 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Total for the year 2001:</b>	<b>250</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



# The 65th Buffalo Ornithological Society May Bird Count

DATE: May 20, 2001

COMPILER: Jim Landau

## Weather Synopsis

provided by National Weather Service, Buffalo, NY

Sunrise: 5:47 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:36 PM EDT

Lake Temperatures: Erie 51 F, Ontario 48 F

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP.(F)	DEW PT.	HUMIDITY	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND
1 AM	Clear	56	51	83	29.94 R	SE 6
2 AM	Clear	55	51	86	29.94 S	SE 5
3 AM	Clear	54	51	89	29.94 S	SE 6
4 AM	Clear	53	50	89	29.95 R	ESE 3
5 AM	Clear	52	50	93	29.97 R	SE 5
6 AM	Partly Cloudy	51	49	93	29.97 S	SE 6
7 AM	Mostly Sunny	52	50	93	29.96 F	ESE 7
8 AM	Mostly Sunny	56	51	83	29.97 R	E 7
9 AM	Mostly Sunny	62	53	72	29.97 S	E 8
10 AM	Partly Sunny	64	54	69	29.97 S	E 7
11 AM	Cloudy	66	55	67	29.97 S	E 10
NOON	Cloudy	68	55	63	29.96 F	E 10
1 PM	Partly Sunny	70	57	63	29.95 F	E 9
2 PM	Partly Sunny	69	55	60	29.94 F	E 9
3 PM	Cloudy	71	55	56	29.92 F	E 9
4 PM	Partly Sunny	72	56	56	29.91 F	E 8
5 PM	Partly Sunny	72	57	59	29.90 F	E 12
6 PM	Mostly Sunny	72	60	65	29.88 F	NE 13
7 PM	Mostly Sunny	72	59	63	29.88 S	ENE 12
8 PM	Mostly Sunny	68	59	72	29.88 S	NE 10
9 PM	Partly Cloudy	65	57	75	29.87 F	NE 12
10 PM	Mostly Cloudy	65	58	78	29.89 R	ESE 9
11 PM	Mostly Cloudy	66	57	72	29.90 R	SSE 10
MID	Mostly Cloudy	64	57	78	29.91 R	SSE 7

Summary: Maximum Temperature: **73F** Minimum Temperature: **51F** Precipitation: **0 inches**

## Compilation

The following is a list of species seen on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers appear in parentheses. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** and **L** represent first and last dates for the spring migration; \* represents first record for the year.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Section(s)</u>		
<b>LOONS - DUCKS</b>				
Red-throated Loon	1	(5)	Green Heron	55
Common Loon	12		Black-crowned Night-Heron	64
Pied -billed Grebe	21	(5,10,19)	Turkey Vulture	377
Horned Grebe	1	(27)	Canada Goose	4103
Red-necked Grebe	1	(1)	Mute Swan	7 (4,5,20)
Double-crested Cormorant	595		Wood Duck	262
American Bittern	7		Gadwall	8 (7,10)
Great Blue Heron	284		American Wigeon	6 (8,11)
Great Egret	9	(9,11)	American Black Duck	1 (9)

Mallard	1178	
Blue -winged Teal	12	(5,8,10)
Northern Shoveler	2	(10)
Green -winged Teal	2	(10)
Canvasback	4	(13,20)
Redhead	18	(10)
Lesser Scaup	9	
White-winged Scoter	1	(1)
Long-tailed Duck	25	(5)
Bufflehead	1	(7)
Hooded Merganser	20	
Common Merganser	26	
Red -breasted Merganser	83	
Ruddy Duck	8	(10,13,20)
waterfowl species	2	(20)

#### RAPTORS - COOTS

Osprey	8	
Bald Eagle	9	
Northern Harrier	14	
Sharp -shinned Hawk	17	
Cooper's Hawk	9	
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	
Broad-winged Hawk	9	
Red -tailed Hawk	188	
American Kestrel	70	
Peregrine Falcon	4	(11)
hawk species	2	(13)
Ring -necked Pheasant	18	
Ruffed Grouse	21	
Wild Turkey	69	
Virginia Rail	8	
Sora	2	(5,23)
Common Moorhen	19	
American Coot	38	

#### PLOVERS - TERN

Black-bellied Plover	* F 12	
Semipalmated Plover	44	
Killdeer	449	
Greater Yellowlegs	3	(7,11,18)
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	
Solitary Sandpiper	22	
Spotted Sandpiper	166	
Upland Sandpiper	2	(7)
Ruddy Turnstone	12	(6,7,13)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	13	
Least Sandpiper	113	
Dunlin	130	
Short-billed Dowitcher	4	(5,7)
Common Snipe	8	
American Woodcock	11	
Bonaparte's Gull	10	
Ring billed Gull	16717	
Herring Gull	2109	

Great Black- backed Gull	143	
Caspian Tern	160	
Common Tern	317	
Black Tern	28	(5,10,21)

#### DOVES - FLYCATCHERS

Rock Dove	899	
Mourning Dove	1659	
Black-billed Cuckoo	21	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	(1,23,25)
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	(3,5,12)
Great Horned Owl	2	(5,14)
Barred Owl	5	(20,23,28)
owl species	1	(12)
Common Nighthawk	6	(5,21,26)
Chimney Swift	303	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	179	
Belted Kingfisher	90	
Red-headed Woodpecker	19	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	98	
Yell. bellied Sapsucker	57	
Downy Woodpecker	212	
Hairy Woodpecker	72	
Northern Flicker	239	
Pileated Woodpecker	30	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	(13)
Eastern Wood Pewee	122	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	(3)
Acadian Flycatcher	4	(5,17,18)
Alder Flycatcher	56	
Willow Flycatcher	79	
Least Flycatcher	111	
Empidonax species	1	(20)
Eastern Phoebe	248	
Great Crested Flycatcher	227	
Eastern Kingbird	342	

#### VIREOS - WAXWINGS

White-eyed Vireo	4	(13)
Yellow-throated Vireo	21	
Blue-headed Vireo	30	
Warbling Vireo	283	
Philadelphia Vireo	2	(5,24)
Red-eyed Vireo	538	
Blue Jay	815	
American Crow	1891	
Common Raven	10	(28)
Horned Lark	42	
Purple Martin	357	
Tree Swallow	2275	
No. Rough-winged Swallow	219	
Bank Swallow	1305	
Cliff Swallow	93	
Barn Swallow	1656	
Black-capped Chickadee	614	



Tufted Titmouse	89	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	23	
White-breasted Nuthatch	150	
Brown Creeper	10	
Carolina Wren	15	
House Wren	329	
Winter Wren	3	(18,20,27)
Marsh Wren	85	
Golden- crowned Kinglet	6	(5,18,28)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	(5,11)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14	
Eastern Bluebird	266	
Veery	152	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	* F 2	(2,5)
Swainson's Thrush	19	
Hermit Thrush	10	
Wood Thrush	345	
American Robin	4963	
Gray Catbird	857	
Northern Mockingbird	30	
Brown Thrasher	38	
European Starling	4914	
American Pipit	49	(4,5)
Cedar Waxwing	716	

#### WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler	119	
Golden-winged Warbler	2	(3,5)
"Brewster's" Warbler	1	(1)
Tennessee Warbler	18	
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	(5)
Nashville Warbler	13	
Northern Parula	5	(3,8,28)
Yellow Warbler	2112	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	186	
Magnolia Warbler	99	
Cape May Warbler	4	(3,5,20)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	41	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	89	
Black-throated Green Warbler	97	
Blackburnian Warbler	64	
Pine Warbler	3	(18,28)
Prairie Warbler	8	(18,28)
Bay-breasted Warbler	12	
Blackpoll Warbler	23	
Cerulean Warbler	18	(5,10,24)
Black-and-White Warbler	10	
American Redstart	175	
Ovenbird	165	
Northern Waterthrush	22	
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	(14,18,23)
Mourning Warbler	20	
Common Yellowthroat	990	
Hooded Warbler	148	
Wilson's Warbler	14	
Canada Warbler	18	
warbler species	9	(13,20)

#### TANAGERS - SPARROWS

Scarlet Tanager	121	
Eastern Towhee	95	
Chipping Sparrow	638	
Clay-colored Sparrow	* 1	(28)
Field Sparrow	145	
Vesper Sparrow	9	(13,15,27)
Savannah Sparrow	296	
Grasshopper Sparrow	10	
Song Sparrow	1412	
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	(5)
Swamp Sparrow	128	
White-throated Sparrow	12	
White-crowned Sparrow	46	
sparrow species	3	(20)
Dark-eyed Junco	159	
Northern Cardinal	670	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	359	
Indigo Bunting	191	
Bobolink	1022	
Red -winged Blackbird	4722	
Eastern Meadowlark	179	
Rusty Blackbird	12	(28)
Common Grackle	3500	
Brown -headed Cowbird	620	
Orchard Oriole	2	(5,8)
Baltimore Oriole	816	
Purple Finch	132	
House Finch	467	
Red Crossbill	1	(18)
Pine Siskin	5	(28)
American Goldfinch	1856	
Evening Grosbeak	2	(27)
House Sparrow	1873	
unidentified birds	40	(20)

<b>Total Species Observed:</b>	<b><u>201</u></b>
<b>Total Individual Birds Observed:</b>	<b><u>80571</u></b>
<b>Total Number of Observers:</b>	<b><u>229</u></b>

#### Notable Count Highs:

There were a number of notable high counts this year including the following which were the highest ever recorded since the May counts began in 1935: Wood Duck (262), Mallard (1178), Caspian Tern (160), Red-bellied Woodpecker (98), Willow Flycatcher (79), White-eyed Vireo (4), Warbling Vireo (283), Eastern Bluebird (266), Northern Mockingbird (30), and Hooded Warbler (148). Additional highs were reported for Alder Flycatcher (56, highest since 1962), Great Crested Flycatcher (227, highest since 1986), Red-eyed Vireo (538, highest since 1974), Veery (152, highest since 1983), and Savannah Sparrow (296, highest since 1979).



## Notable Count Lows

Blue-winged Teal (12, lowest since the May Counts began in 1935), Northern Shoveler (2, lowest since 1988), Bonaparte's Gull (10, lowest since 1991), Ring-billed Gull (16717, lowest since 1989), Purple Martin (357, lowest since 1991), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (219, lowest since 1986), Golden-crowned Kinglet (6, lowest since 1979), American Redstart (175, lowest since 1977), White-throated Sparrow (12, lowest since 1991), and Brown-headed Cowbird (620, lowest since 1991).

For the second year in a row Clay-colored Sparrow (1) was reported on the May Count. It has only been reported on three other May Counts: one in 1970, one in 1984, and one in 2000.

## OBSERVERS: (Compilers are printed in boldface)

**Section 1:** Lynne Landon, Jim Wojewodzki.

**Section 2:** Michael Davis.

**Section 3:** Donna Deleon, Robert Deleon, Michael Drahm, Jerry Farrell, Julie Horne, William Horne, Patty Kornacker, Susan Race, **Donald Roberson**, John Welte, Martha Welte.

**Section 4:** Mark Schlacter, **Bill Watson**.

**Section 5:** Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Don Harris, Aron Kehlenbeck, Jr., Aron Kehlenbeck, Sr., McKenzie Kehlenbeck, Tyler Kehlenbeck, Zeke Kehlenbeck, **Brendan Klick**, Bob Lipp.

**Section 6:** Jerry Chapple, Nina Chapple, Ed Crohn, Marianne Stegmeier, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth.

**Section 7:** Mike Hamilton, Jack Mansfield, Sonja Mansfield.

**Section 8:** Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**.

**Section 9:** Pat Bogan, Mike Galas, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Chuck Rosenberg.

**Section 10:** John Filor, **Robert Wagner**.

**Section 11:** Dennis Gralak, Susan Gralak, Marie Johnson, Alice McKale, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**.

**Section 12:** Ann Bauer, Marion Bee, **Tom Harper**, John Phillips, Jr., Marlene Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Donna Wiedand.

**Section 13:** Doug Beattie, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Aron Kehlenbeck, Jr., Aron Kehlenbeck, Sr., McKenzie Kehlenbeck, Tyler Kehlenbeck, Zeke Kehlenbeck, **Jane Mason**, Marc Mason, **Max Mason**, Gail Seamans, Don Thureau.

**Section 14:** Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobbler, Caroline Goff, Tim Goff, Phyl Hansen, **Doug Happ**, Bob Leonard, Glenna Leous, Marge Vogel, Margaret Wooley.

**Section 15:** William Bogacki, Ed Ratajczak, Dennis Russell.

**Section 16:** Robert Andriele, Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**, Joseph Thill.

**Section 17:** Tom Koopman, **Bert Schweigert**.

**Section 18:** Bruce Chilton, Mike DeSha, Barbara Henderson, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Peter Yoerg.

**Section 19:** Allegany County Bird Club, Lucile Bailey, Barbara Cronk, **Alice Evans**, Lyle Hotchkiss, Dora Lilly,

Joan MacEwan, Philip Main, Bernard Mills, Larry Mullen, Roger Nicholson, Linda Rahl, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Bill Smith, **Elaine Smith**, Marion Smith, Max Smith, Ann Vaclavik, Jay Wilson, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson, Roseanna Wilson.

**Section 20:** Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, Elizabeth Cole, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Terry Mahoney, Richard Miga, Lucille Neveu, Marilyn O'Connell, Thomas O'Connell, Bob Peterson, Audrey Schafer, Doris Welch, Tom Welch.

**Section 21:** Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**.

**Section 22:** Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Ranjit Laha, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**.

**Section 23:** Rosemary Angove, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggio, Jean Pigman, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**.

**Section 24:** Tim Baird.

**Section 25:** Tim Baird, Dr. Stephen W. Eaton, Jeff Reed.

**Section 26:** Allegany County Bird Club, Lou Bump, **Doris Burton**, Carolyn Green,

Frances Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann Scott, Morris Scott, Bruce Smalley, Becky Stoehr.

**Section 27:** Allegany County Bird Club, Russell Allen, **Doris Burton**, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Helen Link, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Wilma Sanford, Lillian Simon, Jake Strong, Lee Windus, Shirley Windus.

**Section 28:** Allegany County Bird Club, Mallory Adams, Mary Adams, Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Harold Babcock, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Wayne Bruster, Debbie Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Elsie Cushing, Kate Cushing, Mark Cushing, Val Cushing, Phyllis Dubriel, Anne Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, John Gradoni, Shawn Graham, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Elsie Kent, Casey Klingensmith, **Clarence Klingensmith**, Margaret Klingensmith, Mark Klingensmith, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Cathy MacDonald, Wallace MacDonald, Hoby Manrey, Ken McClure, Marian McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lenny Osgood, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Beverly Perry, Sean Phelan, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Danielle Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Cathy Sorochin, Terah Soule, Connor Stephens, Wilma Taggart, Abbey Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Evelyn Thomas, Linda Travers, Suzanne Wood.

**Total number of Observers:**

**229**



## B.O.S Trip to Tifft Nature Preserve

By Brendan Klick

On the morning of Sunday, May 6, approximately a dozen birders met in the Tifft Nature Preserve parking area. The turn out might have been better except for an incorrect field trip date published in The Prothonotary.

Early arriving participants observed an Eastern Meadowlark flying over the mounds, south of the parking area. Along the service road, species of interest included two Cape May Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warbler and singing Black-throated Blue and Tennessee Warblers.

Further along the Service Road, the group heard and briefly observed a White-eyed Vireo. We then proceeded on Old Tifft Street and found Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Brown Creeper and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. On the Marsh Observation mound we heard Marsh Wren and Swamp Sparrow. On the Warbler Walk, Bob Andrie spotted a **Boreal owl** roosting in the dense vegetation. Because of its rare occurrence in our area, we immediately notified several birders in the nature preserve, including David Suggs who also happened to have a cellular phone. Several birders were phoned and in a short time many society members arrived to view the owl. After we viewed the owl for an extended period of time, we continued on Mosquito Junction Trail, where we found additional warbler species including Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers. We also heard a White-eyed Vireo that may have been a second individual of this species. At Beth Pond, we added Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck. At that point, we concluded the morning, happy to have observed Boreal Owl, White-eyed Vireo and eleven species of warblers.





**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## August/September Calendar

**August 19: August Shorebird Count.** Contact: Terry Yonker.  
6:30 am. The count will cover 10 reaches of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned to each reach. If you have questions or want to volunteer contact Terry Yonker at (716) 745-9129 or email: tyonker@compuserve.com

**August 26: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie.** Leader: TBA.  
Meet 7:30 a.m. at Vermont and Busti. We will carpool from there.

**September 12: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Post-Summer meeting.

**September 26: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 67, No. 7 July, 2001

### THE MONTH: June

by Joseph Thill

June was slightly warmer than usual, had limited sunshine and less than normal rainfall. A succession of high and low pressure systems from the Northern Plains, Upper Great Lakes and the Atlantic Coast passed through the region. The temperature at Buffalo did not reach 70 °F for the first five days of the month. The low temperature in Buffalo was 47 °F, recorded on June 5 and 7. No measurable precipitation was recorded at Buffalo until June 10 when less than an inch of rain accompanied a low pressure system from the Maritimes. This system brought five days of warm air in its wake with a temperature of 90 °F on June 14, tying a record high for that date in Buffalo. Another low pressure system on June 19, followed by a flow of warm air from the Gulf of Mexico, brought a record high temperature for the date at Buffalo of 90 °F.

There were ten days of measurable precipitation at Buffalo in June. Total precipitation for the month in the city totaled only 1.4 in., 2.2 in. below normal. The greatest rainfall was 0.3 in. on June 21 and 22. The average temperature for the period was 67 °F, about 1 °F above normal. (Meteorological data as provided by the local Climate Summary of the National

Weather Service via the Internet and the Daily Weather Summary in the *Buffalo News*.)

We are now in the second year of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs 'Atlas 2000' project to update the reference, *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New*

*York State*, and as our records in June will indicate, it is yielding interesting results. On June 23, Kurt Fox, while working in Breeding Bird Atlas block 2070A, stopped by a conifer plantation on Keller Road in Yorkshire Township in Cattaraugus County. While walking, Fox heard the unmistakable 'bzzbzz' song of a male Clay-colored Sparrow. He tracked down the bird to its perch in the branches of a small tree where it frequently shifted its position to establish territorial boundaries. Fox saw and heard at least two more territorial males of this species, one with a four-note buzz song. On the following day Brendan Klick and Don Harris visited the plantation ('The Hilliker Tree Farm') at the intersection of Keller and Hilliker Roads, some distance from Fox's observations. In two hours of observation, Klick and Harris counted 13 individual Clay-colored Sparrows, six of them males. Klick also identified two family groups, both having adults busy feeding young in the nest, one group consisting of two adult birds and three fledglings and the second, two adults and one fledgling. These observations apparently represent the first breeding records and only the second and third sighting for this sparrow in Cattaraugus County. For an excellent summary of this species occurrence in New York State, see Brooks, E. (2000) *Breeding Clay-col-*



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*ored Sparrows in Allegany County, New York: A History and Perspective, The Prothonotary*, vol. 66, no. 11, pp. 105 and 110-112.

Other records of interest reported by Atlas workers in June include Brendan Klick and Ed Ratajczak's sighting of an Ibis (Glossy or White-faced) flying over the open marsh at the Heritage Boardwalk, at Tifft Nature Preserve, on June 21. Klick also reported a Northern Saw-whet Owl while driving on ASP 2 in Allegany State Park during the early evening hours of June 2. He spotted the bird in his car headlights, sitting on the side of the road with a mouse, or other mammal, clutched in its talons. Betsy Brooks also reported an adult

Saw-whet Owl sharing a tree limb with a recently fledged owlet at her residence in Alfred Station, Allegany County on June 7.

Common Raven continue to extend their range in our study area: On June 14, Kurt Fox heard the low guttural croaks of these corvids in a wooded ravine at the Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area in the Town of Warsaw, Wyoming County. On June 16, in the Erie County Forest near Sardinia, Fox observed two ravens in flight. On June 18, Francis Rew and Audrey Horbett observed two ravens perched in low shrubbery and heard their 'low guttural croaks' upon taking flight on the Herrick Road in the Town of Gerry in Chautauqua County.

Some interesting records of warblers reported during censusing include a singing male Pine Warbler along France Brook Road in Allegany State Park on June 1

by Brendan Klick. The same day he found another singing male Pine Warbler in a grove of large conifers in the Town of Red House in Allegany State Park. Finally, on June 10, Peter Yoerg and Barbara Henderson found a singing male Kentucky Warbler in the understory of a wet woodland at the intersection of Sawmill Run and Jimerson Roads on the Seneca Nation Reservation west of the City of Salamanca in Gattaraugas.

## A Fine Whip-poor-will Outing: June 8, 2001

by Bill Burch

It all began on a June afternoon in 1990 when Mike Galas led some birders to a field near Port Colborne, Ontario, to enjoy a singing Sedge Wren, and a little later, a jubilant Dickcissel on Minor Road. As darkness fell they went to Wilson Road and listened to the chorus of the Whip-poor-wills, as birders had done for 25 years. The next year the Chinese dinner was added to the pleasures of the outing.

For this year the long table at the Lotus Garden held 24 birders, half of whom were Canadians from the Bert Miller Nature Club. Seven others joined us after dinner. Outside the restaurant the Rough-winged Swallows hunted over the Welland Canal. I forgot to look for the usually-present Chimney Swifts.

The quick stop at Minor Road, just west of town, netted a Northern Harrier and two Savannah Sparrows. Several persons appreciated the great view of the sparrows in the scope while listening to their song.

We reached Wilson Road at 9:00 p.m. and proceeded one mile (designated by a side road here), to the favored spot. While standing on the gravel road we watched and listened as darkness fell. A shadowy Woodcock flew by, and the sounds of Veery, Wood Thrush, Catbird, Yellowthroat and Robin enlivened the evening. Missing was the loud "thunk" of the Green Frogs, which we usually hear.

By 9:22, to my great relief, the Whip-poor-wills began calling in the great Wainfleet Bog to the east. From 9:30 to 9:42 the woods were noisy with the calls. At 9:35 the headlights of a parked car revealed a "whip" resting on the warm road, 100 yards distant. Several persons saw it, and one saw it fly. The calling continued, somewhat diminished, as we left at 10:05 p.m. And this ended our annual encounter with this mysterious bird with the unforgettable call.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
D.-crested Cormorant	9,25	106,154	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Least Bittern	3	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Hess
Great Egret	1-22	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	6,13,27	7,7,5	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	10	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
"	23	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Black-cr. Night-Heron	27	59	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
<u>Ibis species</u>	21	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
American Wigeon	10	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Morgante
"	12	2 + 2 yg	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Klick
Green-winged Teal	25	1	Lackawanna	Andrle, J. Landau
Redhead	3	8	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	5	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Hess
Lesser Scaup	21	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	25	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	9	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	25	1	Salamanca	Watson
Common Merganser	9	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	10	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	3	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg
Osprey	6	1	Eden	Andrle
"	23-29	1 + 2 yg	Allegheny Reservoir	Hess
"	23-29	1 + 1 yg	Allegany S.P.	Hess
"	24	1	Allegany Ind. Res.	Hess
"	28	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Bald Eagle	2,17	1, 1 + 1 imm.	Zoar Valley	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1 ad + 1 imm	Allegany Ind. Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	1 imm.	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	J. Landau, Andrle
"	21,22	1	Somerset	Schnell
"	24	1	Findley Lake	Taylor
Northern Harrier	17	1	Sardinia	Fox
"	24	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Fox
Peregrine Falcon	<u>5</u>	2 chicks	Buffalo (Statler)	Burch
"	<u>30</u>	2 ad, 2 juv	Buffalo (Statler)	Burch
Ruffed Grouse	24	1	Porter	Roberson
Sora	28	1	Franklinville	DeSha
Lesser Yellowlegs	24F	1	Somerset	Watson
"	30	2	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Upland Sandpiper	14	2	Collins	Andrle
"	16	1	Somerset	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Semipalm. Sandpiper	8L	6	Rock Point P.P.	Andrle, Thill
Least Sandpiper	30F	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Dunlin	8L	1	Rock Point P.P.	Andrle, Thill
Great Black-b. Gull	9	17	Niagara Falls	Watson
Caspian Tern	10	1-2	Buffalo	Morgante
Black Tern	5	10	Iroquois N.W.R.	Hess
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	<u>2</u>	1	Allegany S.P.	Klick
"	<u>7,8</u>	1 ad + 1 yg	Alfred	Brooks
Common Nighthawk	5	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
*Whip-poor-will	8	7	Port Colborne, Ont.	Klick(BOS)
Red-headed Wdpkr.	14	4	Marcy's Woods, Ont.	Turisk
"	26-30	1	Como Park	Morgante
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	9	3-4	Alden Town Park	Morgante, Taylor
Acadian Flycatcher	2,17	1,1	Zoar Valley	D'Anna, Potter
"	7	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Mueller(EABC)
"	10;26	4;1	Attica	Fox
"	10	1	Allegany Ind. Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14,23	1,3	Cascade Falls Attica	Fox
"	19	1	Yates	Watson
Yellow-thr. Vireo	9	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	14	1	Marcy's Woods, Ont.	Turisk
"	17	1	Zoar Valley	D'Anna, Potter
"	25	1	Allegany S.P.	Hess
Common Raven	1	1	Allegany S.P.	Klick
"	2-18	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	5	1	Andover	Brooks
"	14,24	2,1	<u>Carlton Hill MUA</u>	Fox
"	17	3	<u>Sardinia</u>	Fox
"	18	2	<u>Gerry</u>	Rew
"	19	1	Grove	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	14	2	Lackawanna	Klick
"	24	4	Alexander	Fox
Brown Creeper	4,11,18	2,3,2	Ward	Brooks
"	9	1	Newstead	Morgante
"	9	1	Alden Town Park	Morgante, Taylor
"	9	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	10	1	Como Park	Morgante
Carolina Wren	7	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Mueller(EABC)
"	14	2	Marcy's Woods, Ont.	Turisk
"	27-29	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson, D'Anna, Potter
Winter Wren	14	1	Marcy's Woods, Ont.	Turisk
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5L	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Swainson's Thrush	2;27,28	3;1,1	Allegany S.P.	Klick; Hess
"	10	1	Salamanca	Yoerg, Henderson
Brown Thrasher	16	1	Somerset	Watson
Golden-wing. Warbler	3	1	Barre	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Allegany S.P.	Hess
"Brewster's Warbler"	9	1	Alexander	Fox
*" <u>Lawrence's Warbler</u> "	11	1	Yates	Watson
Nashville Warbler	2	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	9	1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Parula	1-3	4	Allegany S.P.	Klick



<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Chestnut-s. Warbler	2	1	Porter	Roberson
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	14	1	Marcy's Woods, Ont.	Turisk
Pine Warbler	<u>1,2</u>	1,1	Allegany S.P.	Klick
"	<u>19</u>	1	Grove	Brooks
Prairie Warbler	2	1	<u>Zoar Valley</u>	D'Anna, Potter
"	5,9,12,13	4,4,3,3	Andover	Brooks
"	7,22	1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	10	1	Persia	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	3	New Hudson	Klick, Harris
"	12	1	Franklinville	DeSha
"	13	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	16,24	4,7	Yorkshire	Klick, Harris
"	19	1	Grove	Brooks
"	19	2	Dalton	Brooks
"	19	1	Birdsall	Brooks
"	23	4	Yorkshire	Fox
"	26	1	Farmersville	DeSha
Cerulean Warbler	10,16	1	Yorkshire	Klick, Harris
"	19	2	Yates	Watson
"	29,30	1,1	Somerset	Watson
Black-and-white Warb.	14	1	Marcy's Woods, Ont.	Turisk
*Prothonotary Warbler	4	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Zenger, Kahl
Northern Waterthrush	14	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
La. Waterthrush	2,17	2, 2 + 2 yg	Zoar Valley	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Attica	Fox
"	23	3	Cascade Falls Attica	Fox
* <u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	10	1	Allegany Ind. Res.	Yoerg
Hooded Warbler	14	10	Marcy's Woods, Ont.	Turisk
<u>Clay-col. Sparrow</u>	5-30	2 + nest	Andover	Brooks
"	23	4	Yorkshire	Fox
"	24	13	Yorkshire	Klick
Vesper Sparrow	2	1	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	1	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	13,29,30	1,1,3	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	1	North Collins	Andrle
"	2	1	Zoar Valley	Potter, D'Anna
"	3;8	3;2	Clarence	Yoerg; Hess
"	5-30	3 max.	Andover	Brooks
"	10,17	1	Persia	Potter, D'Anna
"	15	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	16	1	Somerset	Watson
"	16	1	Eden	Klick, Harris
"	17	2	Randolph	Yoerg
"	19	4	Grove	Brooks
"	23	1	Bennington	Fox
"	27	1	Alexander	Fox
Henslow's Sparrow	15	6 singing	Lancaster	Morgante
"	19	1	Grove	Brooks
White-thr. Sparrow	3-23	3 max.	Alfred	Brooks
"	6,9,11	1,1,1	Ward	Brooks
"	19	2	West Almond	Brooks
Orchard Oriole	24	2	<u>Collins</u>	D'Anna, Potter



<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Purple Finch	13,20	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Pine Siskin	1-7	14 max on 3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>				<b>250</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>				<b>4</b>
<b>Total for the year 2001:</b>				<b>254</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

## Boreal Birding Trip — May 16-19, 2001

by Mike Galas

On May 16th Bob Sundell, Bill Watson, Gerry Rising and I began our four day trip to the Adirondacks at 6:00 a.m. Our best bird along Route 90 was a Mute Swan near Clarence. At the Montezuma refuge and surrounding areas we totaled 67 species but found nothing notable.

We continued northward to Ferd's Bog where we found 28 species including Common Raven, Lincoln's Sparrows and an Olive-sided Flycatcher but no Black-backed Woodpeckers, Gray Jays or Boreal Chickadees. Bob Sundell's super hearing quickly identified the tapping of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. This sound and the species it telegraphed were to be enjoyed many times on this trip. But on Thursday -- what a difference a day makes at Ferd's Bog or anywhere birding for that matter -- Maxine Barber, Ed Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, Marie Johnson, Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Alice McKale, and Delores and Gail Seamans observed the boreal specialties of Ferd's Bog including a pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers, Boreal Chickadee and Gray Jays.

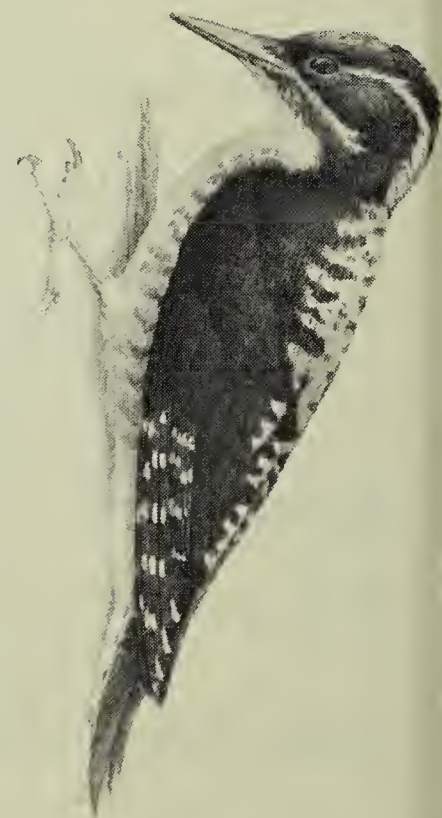
Thursday morning our group birded Bloomingdale Bog. There we were treated to Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Common Raven, Pine Siskin and White-winged Crossbill for a 2-day total of 21 species. This time we had the boreal specialties on the first day while the entire group together on Friday struck out. At Bigelow Road we then totaled 15 species between Thursday and Friday, most notable a male Black-backed Woodpecker spotted by Bill Watson on Thursday. I had seen females before but this was my first male and it was stunning at less than 15 feet. When we left Bigelow Road Don Roberson suggested we try Alderbrook Park Road, an area he had explored in the past. It was a good call for there we found both male and female Black-backed Woodpeckers several feet

away at eye level along with 44 other species highlighted by Common Raven, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee.

Friday at Bloomingdale Bog, as I said earlier, the birding dropped off. None of the usual boreal species appeared but we had some great looks at White-winged Crossbills, which turned out to be a New York bird for Brenda. Rich and Brian then took us back to Bigelow Road where Brenda spotted a family group of adult and fledgling Gray Jays. There too we were treated to Pine Siskins eating grit on the road only a few feet away. Next Rich suggested Sliver Lake Bog, another Nature Conservancy property, where we tallied 14 species before leaving for the Paul Smiths area.

At Paul Smiths we totaled 22 species with good views of American Bittern, Common Snipe and ten species of warblers before moving to the Chubb River area. There again the birding was slow. Despite a great effort by Rich and Brain we saw only six species, nothing exceptional but the scenery and area were great. In January, Brain MacAllister had discovered a Three-toed Woodpecker there but we had no such good fortune. Our leaders also tried several other stops along the way but we finally decided it was time to quit and head back to the motel.

Don Roberson at this time graciously invited the entire group to his lakeside home for a bit of cheer before dinner. While there and at dinner the main topic of conversation was the possibility of finding a Spruce Grouse the next day.





Saturday morning we proceeded to Spring Pond Bog where we met John Ozard of the DEC. This is one of the few places in New York State where Spruce Grouse breed. We traveled several miles along a dirt road to a known Spruce Grouse area. There John pointed out fresh scat and dust baths. On earlier Federation trips, Spruce Grouse came out on the road there. John played a tape of a female Spruce Grouse but, as luck would have it, the male did not respond. Walking back to our cars Gerry heard a Grouse call but again the tape recording could not entice it to visit our party. John also tried several nearby locations and then decided to try a different area altogether, where he pointed out more dust baths and played the tape recording. I didn't hear the flutter of Spruce Grouse wings but John Ozard, Bob Sundell and Jim Landau did. Unfortunately the grouse did not co-operate by gracing us with its presence. While listening for the grouse, Brendan Klick and Alice McKale heard a Boreal Chickadee. Most of the group saw it as it moved through the treetops uncooperatively. By then time had run out on us and we called it quits. The grouse had eluded me for a third time. Normally three strikes and you're out; however, for me it simply translates into planning another trip that will include Whiteface Mountain for Bicknell's Thrush.

I thank all the leaders, supporters and participants -- Rich MacDonald (Nature Conservancy), Brian McAllister (Adirondack guide), John Ozard (NYS DEC Spruce Grouse Specialist), Jerry and Susan Martin (Adirondack Motel owners), Maxine Barber, Bill Broderick, Ken Cohen, Ed Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, Marie Johnson, Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Alice McKale, Gerry Rising, Don Roberson, Shan and Victoria Rothman, Delores and Gail Seamans, Bob Sundell, Brenda Turchiarelli and Bill Watson -- all of whom added to the success and excitement of this trip.

As a group we collectively saw 128 species over the four day period: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Ringed-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hum-



mingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow.





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## September/October Calendar

**September 12: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Post-Summer meeting. Bring your photographs, slides and stories to share.

**September 26: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jeff Reed will give a presentation titled, '*Winging it from Aberdeen to Tulsa, Birds of the American Prairie*'.

**October 10: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron, President of Ontario Field Ornithologists, will discuss last year's Heermann's Gull in Toronto (tentative).

**October 14: BOS October Bird Count.** Contact Michael Hamilton for details.

**October 24: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 67, No. 8 August, 2001

### THE MONTH: July

by Mike Zebehazy

The dry pattern that began in June continued across the region during July providing very pleasant conditions for outdoor activities. Short, warm and muggy periods alternated with relatively longer stretches of comfortably cool conditions leading to a month averaging slightly cooler and cloudier than normal.

The average temperature of 70 °F was about a degree below normal, as also recorded during June. The month began cool with temperatures not reaching 80 °F until the 7<sup>th</sup>. A record low was set on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at just 46 °F, besting the previous record of 47 °F set in 1962. Conditions warmed to more typical summer levels by mid-month. The last two weeks averaged on the warm and humid side. Temperatures reached the 80s on 16 days, just two shy of the long term average. The 90 °F reading on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was the fourth of the summer. Buffalo usually averages three in a year.

Rainfall, or lack of it, was the big story of the month. Frontal systems passed across the area with only isolated shower or thunderstorm activity. Most of the region had less than an inch of rain for the month. Buffalo's 0.73 inch total was the driest in 68 years and the third driest in over 130 years of record. The two

month (June and July) total of 2.09 inches is less than a third of normal. In fact the heaviest daily rain for this period was only about 0.3 inches. The region moved into a "moderate drought" situation by month's end with increasingly difficult

conditions for farmers and gardeners.

Despite the lack of rain July was cloudier than usual. The region received only 53 percent of the possible sunshine, 14 percent less than usual during, what is typically, our sunniest month. Every day did have some sun though with 12 mostly sunny and eight mostly cloudy. Lake Erie warmed to 72 °F by month's end, one degree below normal. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, NY as posted on the Internet.)

Noteworthy birds for which accepted verification reports have been received include Eared Grebe, Canvasback, Peregrine Falcon, Tennessee Warbler, Pine Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Pine Siskin. Of special note is evidence of breeding Cliff Swallows near downtown Buffalo.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> Brendan Klick and on the 29<sup>th</sup> Bill Watson identified an Eared Grebe in full breeding plumage at the Batavia WasteWater Treatment Plant. This locally rare species was noted at the same location in July of 2000. The verifications noted the peaked crown, black neck and golden-brown patch behind the eye. Note: Birders are reminded that the Batavia site can only be entered after obtaining permission at the office.

Gail Seamans identified the Canvasback, also at Batavia, as a female entering eclipse plumage. He remarked, "it may have been a second year bird that did not migrate north."

A Peregrine Falcon observed at Times Beach, perhaps from the Statler Tower nestbox, was observed harassing shorebirds.

Warblers: According to Andrle's report for the Ten-

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|----|--|
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nessee Warbler, the bird appeared from a woodland with other birds in response to spishing and playback of a mobbing tape. Watson reported a Pine Warbler perched in a dead deciduous tree. It held a small caterpillar in its bill for the ten minutes it was observed. Fran Rew spotted another Pine Warbler in the Harris Hill State Reforestation Area. This bird flitted around in a red pine, coming down as low as six feet. It also sang twice, "a song like a Dark-eyed Junco but slightly disjointed."

In the Town of Clarence a very rare Clay-colored Sparrow was found in an overgrown field on the west side of Krause Road, between Keller and Clarence Center Road. There are just

six Erie County records of this species in the BOS archives, and only one of those is from July. In the last ten years this species has been reported in July only from Andover Township in the Southern Tier.

Vivian Mills Pitzrick watched up to nine Pine Siskins at her feeder from June through mid July.

What is remarkable about this month's Cliff Swallow sighting is their apparent breeding in the city of Buffalo. On July 1, two birds were observed making repeated moves to a likely nest under the Peace Bridge although the nest was not visible. On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> two adults were seen feeding two young at Tiff Nature Preserve. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, five birds carrying insects were going to a wooden structure near the HSBC Arena. Of the nineteen previous Erie County records of Cliff Swallow in the BOS archives, eight occurred in April, five in May, two in June, one in

July, two in August and one in October. Eleven of the nineteen are of single birds. However, during July of 1991, Galas and Watson et al., observed between twelve and fifteen individuals on Grand Island and at least five nests. (Thanks to Robert Andrie and David Suggs for much of the preceding information.)

Finally, Jeff Robinson of Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, posted the following to the Ontario Birds listserver. Perhaps it would be worth noting for future reference:

*"During the last several weeks there appears to have been several instances of ring-billed gulls and several black-backed gulls found dead or sick along the Ontario shoreline of Lake Erie. American jurisdictions have also reported similar events from Erie, Pennsylvania and eastward. Shorebirds might also be involved but it is unclear how it relates to the botulism E outbreaks. This appears to be a re-occurrence of botulism type E which is generally thought to arise from the consumption of affected fish or mud-puppies by fish-eating birds (including gulls, loons, grebes and cormorants). Most reports this year have so far come from points east of Long Point. Canadian and US researchers are trying to get a better understanding of what has led to these outbreaks. If you observe either a fish or waterbird die-off or these animals in distress please contact the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre at the University of Guelph at 519-823-8800 extension 4662 (e-mail at ccwhc@uoguelph.ca) or Jeff Robinson of the Canadian Wildlife Service in London at 519-472-6695 (e-mail at jeff.robinson@ec.gc.ca). Please note the time and location; the number of sick or dead fish or birds; their species if known and if possible, determine if any of the birds have been banded. Please provide a contact telephone number or email address for possible follow-up. Botulism E has affected people who have eaten raw or cold-smoked fish but it is not a general concern to human health. No cleanup of dead animals on beaches will be organized...."*

For recent information about botulism and the Great Lakes, an article on the Fall 2000 outbreak in Lake Erie has been published in this newsletter.

Thill, Joe (2001) Lake Erie Botulism, *The Prothonotary*, Vol. 67, No. 3, pages 24 & 27.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Loon	16	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Holmes
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	3;30	189;574	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Great Egret	1-31	22 max.	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	24,28	1,1	Ischua Dam - Machias	DeSha
"	29	1	West Lincoln, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	24	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Sowinski
Mute Swan	16	1	Olcott	Watson
"	28	10 ad.	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	8 ad.	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
American Wigeon	2	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Northern Shoveler	8	1 ad. + 1 yg.	Batavia WWTP	Seamans et al
"	14	12	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Northern Pintail	15	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Green-winged Teal	14	5	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Canvasback	<u>8,29</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	<u>29</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Lesser Scaup	8	4	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
"	10-30	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Red-br. Merganser	2	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Watson
Common Merganser	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Ruddy Duck	8,29	21,46	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
Osprey	17	2 ad. + 2 yg.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	31	3	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Sowinski
Bald Eagle	15	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	29	1 imm.	Sturgeon Point	Andrle
"	31	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Klick, Sowinski
"	31	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Sowinski
Peregrine Falcon	<u>11,30</u>	1,1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	<u>30</u>	1	Times Beach N.P.	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	29F	4	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalmated Plover	22F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Seamans, Campbell
Greater Yellowlegs	11F	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Lesser Yellowlegs	2,23	2,24	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Solitary Sandpiper	9F	1	Sinclairville	Rew, Horbett
"	15	7	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	24	5	Ischua Dam - Machias	DeSha
Upland Sandpiper	9	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kahl
Sanderling	22F	6	Rock Point P.P.	Seamans, Campbell
"	26	12	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Semipalm. Sandpiper	10F	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Watson, Schlacter
"	28	5	Ischua Dam - Machias	DeSha
Least Sandpiper	2	3	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	8	1	Batavia WWTP	Seamans
*Baird's Sandpiper	25F,26	1,1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick, Andrle
Pectoral Sandpiper	15F	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	22	4	Rock Point P.P.	Seamans, Campbell
*Stilt Sandpiper	22F	2	Rock Point P.P.	Seamans, Campbell
"	28	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna
"	30	2	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Short-b. Dowitcher	28F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	28F	1	Ischua Dam - Machias	DeSha
*Wilson's Phalarope	29F,30	1,1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick, Watson, Andrle
Caspian Tern	3	1	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	6	1	Yates	Watson
"	10	2	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Watson
"	13	1	Buffalo Harbor	Klick
Common Tern	13	373	Buffalo Harbor	Klick
Black Tern	15;29	9;5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Watson
Common Nighthawk	21	1	Lancaster	Klick
Whip-poor-will	2	15	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpr.	1-31	3 max.	Como Park	Morgante
"	22	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Yoerg, Henderson
Acadian Flycatcher	9	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kahl
Blue-headed Vireo	9	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kahl
Common Raven	1	5	Allegany Ind. Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	1	New Hudson	Klick, Harris
"	19	1	Andover	Brooks
"	21	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	27	1	Ward	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	1	2	Buffalo Peace Bridge	Andrle
"	13	2	Buffalo Harbor	Klick
"	16	2	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	19,20	2 ad. + 2 yg.	Tifft N. P.	Andrle
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	5	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
Carolina Wren	19	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	22	1	Somerset	Watson
Winter Wren	15	1	Marcy Woods, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"Brewster's Warbler"	7	1	Yates	Watson
"	19	1	Somerset	Watson
Tennessee Warbler	14	1	Collins	Andrle
Chestnut-s. Warbler	7,19	1,1	Somerset	Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	16	1	Krull Park	Watson
Pine Warbler	14	1	Somerset	Watson
"	15	1	Gerry	Rew
Prairie Warbler	4	3	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4-22	3 max.	Andover	Brooks
"	8	2	New Hudson	Klick, Harris
Northern Waterthrush	12	2 ad. + 2 yg.	Ashford	DeSha
Hooded Warbler	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Clay-col. Sparrow	4	1	Clarence	Klick



<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	8	4	New Hudson	Klick et al
"	14	1	Clarence	DeLeon
Vesper Sparrow	1	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	2	1	Collins	D'Anna, Potter
"	5-17	2	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	4	Pomfret	Klick, Harris
"	5-24	3 max.	Andover	Brooks
"	20	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Henslow's Sparrow	1-31	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Kahl
"	20	7	Lancaster	Morgante
Indigo Bunting	30	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Orchard Oriole	5	3-4 fldgs.	Yates	Watson
Pine Siskin	<u>1-16</u>	9 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total for the year 2001:</b>	<b>259</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

## **B.O.S Fieldtrip to the North Shore of Lake Erie**

*by Brendan Klick*

When I arrived at the meeting place of the B.O.S field trip to the north shore of Lake Erie, I found that the trip had no assigned leader and the ten participants designated me as the informal leader of the trip with the duty of preparing this report. Our first stop, Rock Point Park in Dunnville, was disappointing. Strong onshore winds had pushed most of the shorebirds off the rock flats. After a short stay at the park, the group proceeded to the Poth Road Turf Farms where we enjoyed close views of a flock of 17 Black-bellied Plovers. We proceeded to the base of Grabell's Point in Wainfleet. Here, ten shorebird species included a close-up looks at a juvenile Baird's Sandpiper. At Gravel Bay in Wainfleet, viewed from Harborview Road, we found another juvenile Baird's Sandpiper. A juvenile Long-tailed Duck was swimming near the shore. The group was surprised to see most of the shorebirds suddenly take flight. We soon spotted an immature Peregrine Falcon flying toward us, we had a close but short view of the bird in flight.





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## October/November Calendar

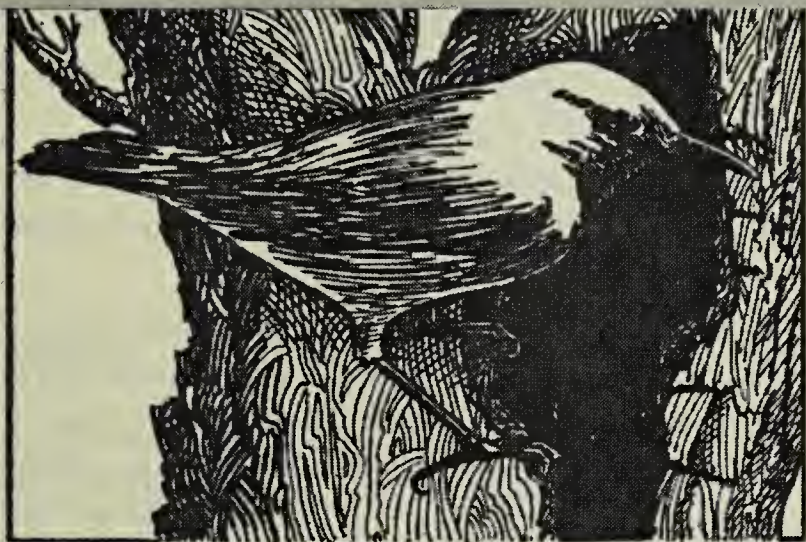
- October 10: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jeann Iron, President of Ontario Field Ornithologists, will discuss last year's Heermann's Gull in Toronto (tentative).
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# *The* PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 67, No. 9 September, 2001

### THE MONTH: August

*by Bruce Chilton*

August brought a continuation of the hot, dry weather pattern of Summer 2001. The monthly temperature averaged four degrees [ $^{\circ}$ F] above the normal value, reaching at least ninety [ $^{\circ}$ F] on four days, with the hottest day being the 5th - an enervating 93  $^{\circ}$ F. Most areas, especially the Lake Ontario plain, received much less rainfall than is usual for the month. A few fortunate places, especially in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, had an adequate amount, although it was mostly deposited in the form of quick torrential downpours. Officially, the greatest one-day fall of rain was 0.55 inch on the 19th; most days were rain-free.

As would be expected, shorebirds highlighted the month's sightings. August 4 was a noteworthy day at Rock Point Provincial Park on the north shore of Lake Erie. On that day, at least fifteen species were present on the extensive algae mats there, including two early American Golden-Plovers, twelve Black-bellied Plovers, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, eight Stilt Sandpipers, and seven Short-billed Dowitchers. Adding to the fun were Long-tailed Duck, Merlin, and Forster's Tern.

Somewhat unusual was the presence of Willets throughout the month; they were reported on several days between the 7th and the 21st - mostly

single birds, but pairs on the 16th (Dunkirk Harbor) and the 18th and 21st (Rock Point). A Whimbrel was present at Rock Point on the 29th. There were even a few shorebird sightings away from the lakes, with several reports from Machias Township in Cattaraugus County, one involving a Wilson's Phalarope at Ischua Creek Dam.

Among other good birds were an Eared Grebe, present for most of the month at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant ponds, and a Sedge Wren at Port Colborne. A Glossy Ibis was reported, but apparently not confirmed, at Tifft Nature Preserve on the 22nd.

Special mention should be made of an extremely unusual species that invaded our latitude during the month, but did not make it into the BOS territory. Groups of from two to four Wood Storks appeared to the west of us - Pelee Island, at the western end of Lake Erie - and to the east - Clyde, Wayne County (east of Rochester). It's thought that adverse weather conditions in Florida forced these birds to seek habitat more to their liking.



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The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send subscriptions and address changes to the Corresponding Secretary, Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033. The regular subscription rate is \$20/year. Back issues are available from the Treasurer for \$1.50/issue.

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Mike Galas  
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## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mike Hamilton

I will keep this brief but there are several things I need to say. Most important of all I want to thank the various committees and their chairs for their hard work over the past three years. The Standing Committees have kept all our basic operations running smoothly and well and the Special Committees (Prothonotary, Prothonotary Indexing, Young Birders, the BOS seasonal Checklist, Graphics, Hotline, NRIBA and Section Maps Update) have been very productive.

An excellent start in making this publication more useful to us!

- Dave Cooper, Ed Ratajczak and Brendan Klick organized another very successful Young Birders event, supported by many BOS volunteers. This program should continue as an annual event.
- Brendan has also continued his excellent job with the resuscitated Hotline, which has been very helpful to many people.
- The section maps have been completed for those sections located in the U.S. However, we are still trying to work out a way to get the Canadian sections completed. It is a question of licensure and, possibly, money. I am sure that it will be done one way or another but I am not sure of exactly when.
- Don Roberson, Bob Andrie and Dave Cooper have kept us in the planning process for the restoration of Goat Island, which, so far, seems to be going in a positive direction beneficial to birds.
- Terry Yonker and Lynne Landon organized a shore-bird survey on August 19 along the north shore of Lake Erie from Port Maitland to the Peace Bridge, the results of which will be compared to similar surveys completed in the past.
- Mike Galas organized a very enjoyable field trip to the Adirondacks in mid May. He may do it again next year and I highly recommend it for those of you who have not been there, as well as those who have.
- Finally, Bill Watson is entering the data from old Prothonotaries for April counts made prior to 1979 into our electronic data bank. This is really exciting, as it will make all April count data back to 1935 more available for study and research.

From the start of my presidency my goal was to firm up our infrastructure and increase the usefulness and relevancy of our work and data. I was naively hopeful we could get it mostly done in one year. Well, it has taken a bit more time and the job isn't done yet but we are a good way down the road. Again, I thank all of you who have committed time and energy in this effort.

I also want to thank Tom O'Donnell who, as Council president for all three years of my incumbency, has been a big help to me. Tom likes to think that because he was 30 seconds late to his first Council meeting he got stuck with the presidency but he was actually elected in his own right and did an excellent job.

Respectfully submitted

### SOME OF THE YEARS HIGHLIGHTS:

- The BOS Seasonal Checklist has been completed and is being reviewed by Larry Szantor with regard to various formatting and printing options. The Council will review these and make recommendations to the membership for approval. We will be able to print it very soon! This is a major piece of work and Dave Suggs and his committee have done an outstanding job.
- Karen Landau has indexed two years (Volumes) of the Prothonotary and has issued it for review. After the content and categories have been agreed upon, volunteers will be needed to complete the additional years.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Loon	23	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
Pied-billed Grebe	11	28	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	26	2	Como Park	Morgante
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	11,31	1,1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
D.-crested Cormorant	9,21	90,360	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	9,23	108,112	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Sowinski
"	10,28	831, <u>1132</u>	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	12	1	Belmont	Pitzrick
"	20	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	21	298	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
Great Egret	2	7	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
"	4-22	2 max.	Tonawanda	Hess
"	9	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Watson
"	11	10	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	15	1	Lewiston	Potter, D'Anna
"	18	2	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
Black-cr. Night-Heron	25	1	Como Park	Morgante
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Mute Swan	4;18	1;2 ad.	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick; D'Anna
"	15	2 ad.	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Andrle
"	21	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
American Wigeon	17	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	10	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	11	7	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	11;30	2;10	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Watson
Northern Pintail	18	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Schlacter
Green-winged Teal	5	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	8	2	Tifft N. P.	Andrle
Canvasback	<u>11</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Klick
Lesser Scaup	4,10	1,1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick, Harris
Long-tailed Duck	<u>4</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Klick
"	<u>4,19,26</u>	1,2,1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
"	<u>9,21</u>	1,3	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Watson
"	<u>18</u>	4	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	D'Anna
Common Goldeneye	4	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
Red-br. Merganser	4	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	4	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris
"	18	2	Grabel Point, Ont.	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Merganser	4,18	6,8	Crescent Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
"	4	6	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	19	27	Point Abino, Ont.	Klick, Harris
Ruddy Duck	9,16	1,1	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick
"	11,30	51,48	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Osprey	14	1	Como Park	Morgante
"	30	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Schlacter
Bald Eagle	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Merlin	<u>29</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	<u>2</u>	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
"	26	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
"	31	1	Rock Point P.P.	Bullock
Black-bellied Plover	4	2	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	4;9	3;13	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; Watson
"	18	79	Moulton, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
*Amer. Golden Plover	<u>12</u>	2	Dayton	Andrle
Greater Yellowlegs	24	11	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Lesser Yellowlegs	7;9	104;110	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	5,9	8,8	Machias	Klick
"	10	5	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	18	3	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
*Willet	7F;9	1;1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Klick; Watson
"	11	1	Camelot Beach, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	18;21	2;2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Morgante; Watson
"	18	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Morgante
"	18	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
Upland Sandpiper	27	1	Buffalo Airport	Morgante
Whimbrel	29F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
Ruddy Turnstone	9F;18	5;12	Rock Point P.P.	Watson; Morgante et al
"	23	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
*Red Knot	7F	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick, Sowinski
"	18;21	2;3	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter; Watson
Sanderling	7	76	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Sowinski
"	9	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick
"	26	4	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante
Semipalm. Sandpiper	7;9	125;200	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; Watson
"	24	30	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Least Sandpiper	9	124	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	24	42	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
White-r. Sandpiper	4F;21	1;1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; Watson
"	21	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
"	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
Baird's Sandpiper	7;11;18;29	1;1;3;9	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; D'Anna; Watson
"	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
"	21	5	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Yoerg
"	26	2	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante
"	29	1	Times Beach N.P.	Watson
"	29	2	Pt. Abino, Ont.	Yoerg
"	30	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter



<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Pectoral Sandpiper	7;9	33;43	Rock Point P.P.	Klick; Watson
"	11	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Stilt Sandpiper	4	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	4,7	1,8	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	9	6	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	11	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick et al
"	31	2	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Short-b. Dowitcher	1	1	Machias	DeSha
"	4	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick, Harris
"	9	5	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	10,15,27	3,17,6	Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	16	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	21	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson et al
"	26	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante
Common Snipe	10,31	7,4	Machias	DeSha
Wilson's Phalarope	7	1	Machias	DeSha
*Red-necked Phalarope	30F	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Little Gull	4	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	4;12	1;1	Rock Point P.P.	Williams; Edmondstone
Bonaparte's Gull	9	160	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
"	16	21	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Klick, Harris
Caspian Tern	9,16	<u>36</u> ,18	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick, Harris
"	11	8	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson et al
"	12	4	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	16	11	Evans	Klick, Harris
"	23	12	Hanover	Klick, Harris
*Forster's Tern	4;19;29	1;2;1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna; Morgante; Yoerg
"	4	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Klick, Harris
Black Tern	19	2	Point Abino, Ont.	Klick, Harris
Common Nighthawk	9,23,27	1,1,3	Salamanca	LeBlanc
"	14-31	7 max.	Tonawanda	Hess
"	15,22,26	1,1,3	Snyder	Klick
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1-31	2	Como Park	Morgante
"	4	2	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	16	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Klick, Harris
"	16	1	Wendt Beach S.P.	Klick, Harris
"	16,23	1,3	Point Gratiot	Klick, Harris
Least Flycatcher	26	1	Tift N.P.	Morgante
Common Raven	4,27	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	5	1	<u>Attica</u>	Klick
"	6,28	1,1	Andover	Brooks
Carolina Wren	1-31	12 reports	throughout WNY, Ont	various observers
* <u>Sedge Wren</u>	4,11	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	D'Anna
"	7	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Klick, Sowinski
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	21	4	Rock Point P.P.	Watson
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<u>29F</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
Swainson's Thrush	29F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
Northern Mockingbird	16	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Blue-winged Warbler	13	1	Somerset	Klick, Sowinski
"	19	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Golden-wing. Warbler	13	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Sowinski
Tennessee Warbler	21F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson, Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Nashville Warbler	13	1	Somerset	Klick, Sowinski
Magnolia Warbler	13	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Klick, Sowinski
Cape May Warbler	21F	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	11	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Blackburnian Warbler	11F	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna et al
Bay-breasted Warbler	19F	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	24	2	Goat Island	Roberson
Blackpoll Warbler	24F	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Black-and-white Warb.	11F	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna et al
Northern Waterthrush	11F	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna et al
Hooded Warbler	9	3	Lake Erie S.P.	Klick
Wilson's Warbler	13F	1	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
"	26	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Canada Warbler	13F	1	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
"	19	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	19	1	Wheatfield	D'Anna, Potter
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	1	Andover	Brooks
Orchard Oriole	11	1 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith
Purple Finch	11	2 banded	Rock Point P.P.	J. Smith

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total for the year 2001:</b>	<b>265</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

## VERIFICATION DATE GUIDE REVISIONS

*by Mike Hamilton*

Because our supply was dwindling, the membership decided to reprint the 1998 Edition of the date guide and, in the process, correct the few typographical and taxonomic errors that had been discovered. The updated Guide omits "1998 EDITION" from the cover and notes that it is the "Seventh Edition – Revised 2001" on the inside cover. Copies are available from the treasurer, ?, @ \$3.00 each. Here are the changes:

Page 6, line 3: "L.c. canus" has been underlined as is customary for subspecies

Page 6, line 11: "formally" has been changed to "formerly"

Page 7, last 2 lines: "Night Heron" has been hyphenated thusly: "Night-Heron"

Page 8, line below "Mute Swan": "*Adult plumage only*" has been shifted to a left indented position for consistency

Page 9: "Oldsquaw" has been changed to "Long-tailed Duck"

Page 10: "Gyr Falcon" has been relocated to between Merlin and Peregrine Falcon

Page 13: "Sabine's Gull" has been relocated to between Great Black-backed Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake

Page 15: "Loggerhead Shrike" has been relocated to between Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Northern Shrike

Page 16: "Yellow-throated Vireo" has been relocated to between White-eyed Vireo (on previous page) and Blue-headed Vireo

Page 16: "Cliff Swallow" has been relocated to between Bank Swallow and Barn Swallow

Page 20, line 4: a space has been added between "Le" and "Conte's" thusly: "Le Conte's"

Page 20: under White-crowned Sparrow "*gambelli*" has been changed to "*gambellii*"



# Buffalo Ornithological Society

Membership Committee Annual Report

October 10, 2001

*by Karen Landau, Jim Landau and Victoria Onorato*

Charter	0
Honorary	1
Fellows	7
Citation	4
Active	
Existing	79
From Assoc.	10
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>80</u></b>

Associate	
Existing	115
From Corresponding	9
New	10
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>104</u></b>

Corresponding	
Existing	49
From Assoc.	6
New	3
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>47</u></b>

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP (Oct. 10, 2001)**243

Known Deceased	2
Anna Mae Bacon	
Dr. R. Blake Reeves	

**Removed for Non-Payment  
or Requested Cancellation** 19

From Assoc. 9  
(Dennis Evans, Jackie Isgro, David Mark,  
Anthony Novitsky, Dorothy Rosche, Tom Smith,  
Michael Turisk, Edith Wagner, Dorothy Watson)

From Active 6  
(Blayne Farnan, Marcy Foster, Barbara Hal-  
vorsen, John McCormick, Susan O'Donnell, Rich-  
ard Rosche)

From Corres. 4  
(Donald Clark, Kathy DiVito, Janeen Greene,  
Alastair McGregor)

Respectfully submitted





**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## November/December Calendar

**Oct. 27: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain.** Leader: Willie D'Anna. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wrights Corner, located on Route 78, near the Route 104 intersection.

**Nov. 14: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. David Cooper will present a photograph and slide program, "Kestrel, Eastern Screech Owl and Wood Duck Interrelationships".

**Nov. 18: Tentative as of 10/19/01. Niagara River for waterfowl and gulls.** Leader: Brendan Klick. Meet at 9 a.m. at Fort Niagara State Park parking area near the Coast Guard Station.

**Dec. 12: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. David Cooper will present a photograph and slide program, "Kestrel, Eastern Screech Owl and Wood Duck Interrelationships".

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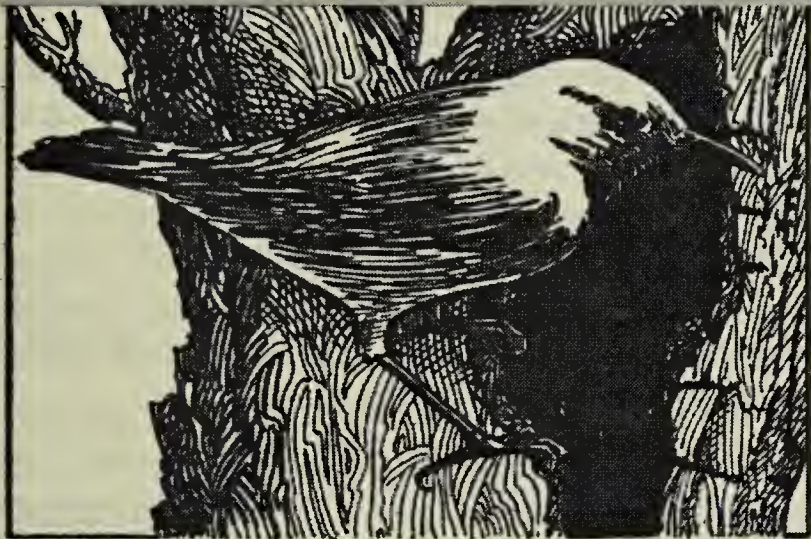
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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 67, No. 10 October, 2001

### THE MONTH: September

*by Robert Wagner*

Every September Joseph Thill makes a point of sitting in a lawn chair in his backyard in Kenmore between 6 and 7:30 each evening, when the weather permits, to monitor the sky for Nighthawks.

In days gone by, the calls of Nighthawks were as familiar a part of the summer evening scene as the cries of children playing in the streets. "You could hear them all night long," recalls Thill. And in early September, during their migration, the sky was often alive with zig-zagging Nighthawks.

No more. Nighthawks have virtually disappeared as a summer resident. Thill blames the Crows, although he acknowledges there may be other factors as well. In 1988 he saw a Crow clutching a nestling snatched from the roof of the Kenmore Towers to the protests of an adult nighthawk.

Still, "a pitiful remnant of what was once a large passage" of migrating Nighthawks persists each September. And Thill keeps a count. This year he had one on Sept. 1, 12 on the 6th, 61 on the 9th, 53 on the 10th, and 16 on the 18th.

It was nothing like the old days, says Thill. Still, it wasn't too bad. Mary Clemesha was gratified to see "ten, maybe fifteen flying quite low over the

empty field and over my house" in North Tonawanda on Sept. 8. "They used to be a certainty, spring and fall," she said. "I saw none in the year 2000 nor in the spring of 2001."

Highest number of Nighthawks was 670 recorded over Kenmore on Sept. 3, 1965, according to David Suggs, custodian of the BOS data base.

If Nighthawks have declined, other species, in addition to Crows, have flourished. William Watson reported at Buckhorn Island State Park on Sept. 5, 1,345 Double-Crested Cormorants, a species "uncommon" on the Niagara Frontier in the not so distant past.

Thomas and Susan O'Donnell had more than 45 Great Egrets, once considered a rare straggler to the area, at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge on Sept. 3. According to Suggs, it appears to be a record number for the area, although his data does not include records after 1997. Here's the O'Donnell report: "As we drove into the Cayuga Overlook we noticed several Great Egrets flying over Route 77 toward the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. As we scanned the pool we saw many in the back of the pool. They began to take flight in small groups and we counted them as they flew over Route 77. At the end of this flight we had counted 45. We know the total number was higher due to the birds (at least 10) we saw flying away as we arrived."

Brendan Klick reported that he and Don Harris saw 66 White-rumped Sandpipers on the 29th and 54 on the 30th at Cayuga Pool in the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. These, too, appear to be record numbers for the area. At one point, said Klick, a "Peregrine Falcon came and flushed the birds" as he was observing

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Bob Wagner  
William Watson  
2002-2003 Bill Bogacki  
Mike Davis  
Mike Galas  
2003-2004 Morgan Jones  
Anne Vogt  
James Wojewodzki

them on the 29th. "It seemed that about 75 percent of the birds were adults and 25 percent were juveniles," he said.

They also reported at the pool three juvenile Hudsonian Godwits, the first record of this species for the area this year, along with a Wilson's Phalarope, and three Long-billed Dowitchers (as distinct from Short-billed Dowitchers), which were observed also by Watson *et al.* However, the first sighting of the latter species for the year was at Machias, where a single bird was recorded by Michael De Sha from the 12th to the 15th.

Banded Trumpeter Swans observed in the refuge area represent an experiment by the New York State Department of Envi-

ronmental Conservation at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area to try to train 12 introduced birds to migrate. So far, according to a spokesman, the experiment has been a disappointment.

New species for the year in September also included a Western Sandpiper, observed on the 29th by Watson and Mark Schlacter, at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, which again was host to an abundance of Ruddy Ducks (up to 180) and a couple Eared Grebes. Also new for the year were the Buff-breasted Sandpipers observed by Jack Skalicky and Peter Yoerg at Fort Erie on the 8th and the 11th, respectively.

A first, too, was Klick's Olive-sided Flycatcher on Sept. 22 at the Iroquois Refuge. "The white throat and center of the breast contrasted with a gray 'vest' on the flanks and the sides of the breast," he observed. "A diagnostic habit was that the bird perched on top of a tall, dead snag, which is typical behavior for this species."

And the Connecticut Warbler reported by Linda Holmes at Sinking Ponds, East Aurora, on the 16th was a new BOS bird for the year.

As for the weather, it was, according to the National Weather Service, "a 'normally' fine September for the Buffalo area." The average temperature of 62.7 °F was about a degree above normal.

There was a heat wave from the 7th to the 9th. The 89 °F on the 8th tied the record high for the date from 1960 and the 90 °F reading on the 9th was the first 90-degree [°F] reading in September since 1973. The summer drought continued through most of the month but a drastic change came with a cool and rainy period late in the month that saw as much as three inches of rain across parts of Buffalo and its northern suburbs on the 25th-26th. However, "the month ended with two gloriously sunny crisp autumn days."





## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (B.O.S. 1998) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Horned Grebe	2	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Harris
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	1	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Skalicky
"	22,30	2,1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	22	2	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna
"	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	5	<u>1345</u>	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	10	131	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
American Bittern	30	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Great Egret	1-30	5 max.	Tifft N.P.	several observers
"	3	<u>45</u>	Iroquois N.W.R.	S&T O'Donnell
"	8-21	8 max.	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	24	1	Sheridan Park	Watson
"	29,30	25,21	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Snow Goose	<u>29F</u>	1 blue phase	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
Mute Swan	3	7	Olcott	Klick
"	5-16	3 max.	Fort Erie, Ont.	several observers
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	22	4 banded	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	29	10 banded	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
American Wigeon	22,30	135,162	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
Blue-winged Teal	29	93	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Northern Shoveler	29	210	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Northern Pintail	1	5	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Ring-necked Duck	16F;29	8;20	Batavia WWTP	Klick; Watson
Greater Scaup	29	6	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Lesser Scaup	2	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	29	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Long-tailed Duck	<u>2</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick
"	<u>2</u>	4	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick
Bufflehead	<u>30F</u>	3	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Yoerg
Red-br. Merganser	15	4	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
"	29	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Common Merganser	29	9	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Ruddy Duck	2;29	64;180	Batavia WWTP	Skalicky; Watson
Osprey	1-29	7 rpts.	throughout region	several observers
Bald Eagle	6	1	Scio	Pitzrick
"	22	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
"	29	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
Merlin	11	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	29	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Virginia Rail	12	2	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-bellied Plover	8	12	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky
"	28	3	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Andrle
"	29,30	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson et al
Amer. Golden-Plover	5-16	3 max.	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	16,30	1,1	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Harris
"	21	5	Eden	Klick
"	22,30	1,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Klick
Semipalmated Plover	3	13	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante et al
"	29	9	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Greater Yellowlegs	30	45	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Lesser Yellowlegs	29	23	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Solitary Sandpiper	29	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Willet	5	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg
Whimbrel	5-11	2 max.	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky, Yoerg, Watson
* <u>Hudsonian Godwit</u>	29,30	3,3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	30	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Ruddy Turnstone	1;2;16	5;8;3	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg; Skalicky; Klick
"	8	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky
"	21	1	Dayton	Klick
"	22;29	1;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Klick
Red Knot	3;4	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Klick; Watson
"	11,15	1,1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
Sanderling	3	2	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante
"	3	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Klick
"	8;29	2;1	Batavia WWTP	Holmes; Watson
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	29	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
White-r. Sandpiper	9;16	2;3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick; Yoerg
"	29,30	<u>66,54</u>	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Harris
Baird's Sandpiper	1;29	4;2	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg; Watson
"	1	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg
"	8	1	Times Beach N.P.	Watson et al
"	9	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick, Harris
Pectoral Sandpiper	29	33	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Dunlin	9F	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	29	7	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	30	9	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Stilt Sandpiper	8;16	1;1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky; Yoerg
"	22;29;30	7;7;8	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna; Klick; Watson
* <u>Buff-br. Sandpiper</u>	8;11	2;1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Skalicky; Yoerg
Short-b. Dowitcher	9	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
* <u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	12-15	1	Machias	DeSha
"	29,30	3,3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	30	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Dowitcher species	29	6	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Wilson's Phalarope	<u>29L</u>	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Bonaparte's Gull	1;29	1;4	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
Caspian Tern	3	2	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante et al
"	21L	2	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
Forster's Tern	3	2	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Morgante et al
Black Tern	1	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Common Nighthawk	2;5	2 <sup>5</sup> ;18	Niagara Falls	T. O'Donnell; Watson



<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	3-18	3 max.	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	10	N. Tonawanda	Clemesha
"	9,10,18	61,53,16	Kenmore	Thill
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	20L	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Red-headed Wdpkr.	3-15	2	Como Park	Morgante
"	3	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
*Olive-s. Flycatcher	<u>22L</u>	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Alder Flycatcher	<u>20L</u>	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Least Flycatcher	15L	1	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna et al
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	23L	1	Tifft N.P.	Yoerg
Eastern Kingbird	1L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Yellow-thr. Vireo	16L	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Warbling Vireo	16L	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Philadelphia Vireo	5-27	8 rpts.	throughout WNY	many observers
Common Raven	16	1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	20	1	Pfeiffer N.C.	LeBlanc
"	23	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Purple Martin	29L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Red-br. Nuthatch	22	4	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Carolina Wren	1-30	2 max.	Como Park	Morgante
"	1-30	2	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	1-30	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	6	3	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	11	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	15	1	Amherst S.P.	Klick
"	22-27	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	28	5	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
House Wren	28	4	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Winter Wren	15F	1	Amherst S.P.	Klick
"	16	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Golden-cr. Kinglet	15F	1	Amherst S.P.	Klick
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	14F	1	Snyder	Klick
"	16	2	Como Park	Morgante
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	30	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Veery	1	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	29L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	12,28,29	2,1,2	over Buffalo	Yoerg
"	15	1	Tifft N.P.	Potter
"	17	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Klick
"	22	2	Como Park	Morgante
"	23	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	2	Snyder	Klick
"	29	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Swainson's Thrush	16	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Roberson
"	28	9	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Hermit Thrush	22F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
"	23	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Wood Thrush	30	1	Golden Hill S.P.	T. O'Donnell
Brown Thrasher	27	3	Snyder	Klick
"	29	1	Niagara Falls	T. O'Donnell
American Pipit	8F	2	Batavia WWTP	Holmes

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	23	30	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Yoerg
Blue-winged Warbler	12	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"Brewster's Warbler"	<u>27</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Orange-cr. Warbler	23;27	1;1	Tifft N.P.	Yoerg; Watson
Northern Parula	15,27,28	3,3,2	Goat Island	Roberson
"	16	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	23	2	Golden Hill S.P.	T. O'Donnell
Yellow Warbler	13,21	1,1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	27L	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Magnolia Warbler	20	18	Goat Island	Roberson
Cape May Warbler	27	10	Goat Island	Roberson
Yellow-r. Warbler	22	104	Goat Island	Roberson
Pine Warbler	3	2	Wilson	Klick
"	13,18	1,1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	22	2	Como Park	Morgante
"	27	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Palm Warbler	11F;15	3;4	Goat Island	Roberson; D'Anna
"	11F	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	30	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Bay-breasted Warbler	3	9	Wilson	Klick
Northern Waterthrush	5	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
"	23	1	Goat Island	Potter
*Connecticut Warbler	16	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Hooded Warbler	16	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	20	1	Pfeiffer N.C.	LeBlanc
Wilson's Warbler	27	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	28	1	Times Beach N.P.	Klick
Canada Warbler	1	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
*Yellow-br. Chat	2	1	Sherman	Light (BAS)
Scarlet Tanager	29	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Lincoln's Sparrow	6F	1	Amherst S.P.	Klick
"	15	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	D'Anna et al
"	23	1	Golden Hill S.P.	T. O'Donnell
White-thr. Sparrow	1F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	15	4	Amherst S.P.	Klick
"	15	5	Goat Island	D'Anna et al
White-cr. Sparrow	23	10	Golden Hill S.P.	T. O'Donnell
Dark-eyed Junco	16	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Rusty Blackbird	16F	4	Point Abino, Ont.	Yoerg
"	22	10	Tonawanda W.M.A.	D'Anna et al
Baltimore Oriole	2L	1	Goat Island	Roberson
Purple Finch	22	15	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total for the year 2001:</b>	<b>272</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



# BUDGETS FOR THE YEARS 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 FOR THE BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*by Lynne Landon, Mike Hamilton, Gerry Rising (Budget Committee) 9/11/00*

Following are the proposed budgets for the BOS fiscal years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 for the General/Prothonotary Fund and the Special Projects Fund. Although the Society must soon vote on the 2001-2002 General/Prothonotary Fund budget only, it is helpful to anticipate future needs and/or the spreading of expenses over more than one year. To this end the 2002-2003 preliminary budget is included as a guide only and will need to be revised and voted on next year.

Lastly, please note that each year's ending bank balance for the General/Prothonotary Fund is also a general operating contingency for that year, which we have assumed will not be needed. Additionally, the 2004 Banquet Fund could be further temporary insurance which would need to be reimbursed if used.

ESTIMATED INCOME:	General/Prothon. Fund:		Special Projects Fund:	
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003
<i>Opening Balance:</i>	\$6,868.00	\$3,868.00	\$2,131.30	\$0.00
<i>2000-2001 Dues:</i>	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	-	-
<i>Date Guide Sales</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	-	-
<i>Special Membership Premiums</i>	\$800.00	\$800.00	-	-
<i>Advertising (Prothonotary)</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	-	-
<i>Interest (Special Projects Fund)</i>	-	-	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Total estimated income:</b>	<b>\$11,568.00</b>	<b>\$8,568.00</b>	<b>\$5,131.30</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

<i>General operating expense (recent actual amounts have varied from \$776 to \$1,762 excluding contributions)</i>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	-	-
<i>Contributions</i>	\$200.00	\$200.00		
<i>Speakers Fund (reimbursable expense for travel, lodging)</i>	\$300.00	\$300.00	-	-
<i>Vaughn Lecture Series (reinstitution of support)</i>	\$100.00	\$100.00	-	-
<i>Prothonotary (current estimate)</i>	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	-	-
<i>Meeting Room (annual contribution to Buffalo Museum of Science for our bi-weekly use of the Cummings Room)</i>	\$300.00	\$300.00	-	-
<i>2004 Banquet Fund (+ \$300 set aside in 1999-2000)</i>	\$600.00	\$900.00		
<i>Delegates to Annual Meeting of Federation of NYS Bird Clubs (reimbursable expense for travel, lodging)</i>	\$300.00	\$300.00	-	-
<i>Young People's Weekend (to encourage/foster young people's interest in birds)</i>	\$100.00	\$100.00	-	-
<i>BOS Graphics Coordination and Update (to create a more unified and contemporary image for all BOS printed matter)</i>	\$300.00	\$0.00	-	-
<i>Map Project (to update BOS section maps and identify key birding areas and species therein)</i>	\$600.00	-		
<i>BOS Yearly list (to include graphics to show relative abundance and scarcity of each species for each month of the year)</i>	\$800.00	-		
<i>Beardslee &amp; Mitchell update</i>	\$100.00	\$100.00		
<i>Special Project Grants</i>	-	-		
<b>Proposed budget:</b>	<b>\$7,700.00</b>	<b>\$6,300.00</b>		

<b>Ending bank balance (general operating contingency):</b>	<b>\$3,868.00</b>	<b>\$2,568.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## December/January Calendar

**December 12: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**December 15: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Count.** Compiler: Bill Michalek (457-3228).

**December 16: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Count.** Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).

**December 27 (tentative): Oak Orchard Count.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (762-8040).

**December 29: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains Count.** Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110).

**December 29: Saturday. Niagara Falls ON-NY.** Contact Willie D'Anna (731-4348 or dannapotter@wzrd.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.

**January 5: Saturday. Hamburg-East Aurora Count.** Compiler: Brendan Klick (839-1792)

**January 9: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science

**January 13: Sunday. Waterfowl Count of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs.** This is the target date, but any date between Jan 12 and 20, inclusive is acceptable. However, the best count of shifting flocks is attained if everyone uses the target date, weather permitting. Bill Burch (773-3690).

**January 23: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

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# Buffalo Ornithological Society

## ANNUAL DUES NOTICE (10/10/01-10/9/02)

Membership levels:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.00 ARCTIC TERN (Corresponding) The long distance migrants.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (Active/Associate-Individual) The ever  
present worker and backbone of the society.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 AMERICAN CROW (Active/Associate-Family) You never see just one.

For those who want to give more:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Always scratching for a little more.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75.00 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH One that has put something aside for  
the future.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 WILD TURKEY A large nest of eggs to give from.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 GREAT HORNED OWL Able to cough up a little more.  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 BALD EAGLE Our national symbol, the top of the raptor world.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AXTELL/McVEY/WENDLING FUND... \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ TO INDICATE ANY CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS ABOVE

Dues are payable in U.S. Funds to **BOS**. Please respond by **December 22, 2001** to:

Thomas O'Donnell  
Treasurer, Buffalo Ornithological Society  
3067 Lewiston Road  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305-1823

PLEASE CHECK IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE\_\_\_\_OR DROP\_\_\_\_MEMBERSHIP

**THANK YOU**

**BOS Membership Renewal Form on the  
back of this page.**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

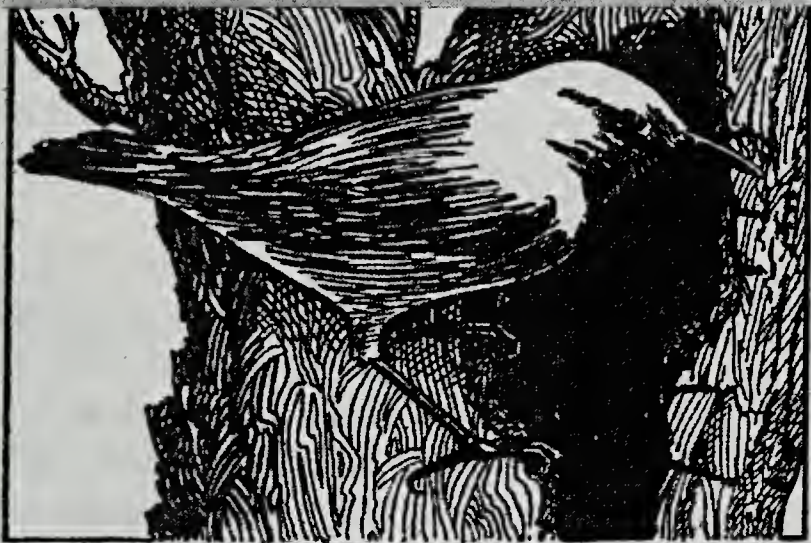
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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 67, No. 11 November, 2001

### THE MONTH: October

by Bill Watson

This October was a month of extremes. There were unseasonably warm periods, cold snaps, and high winds on the 15th, 16th, 25th, and 26th. The west-southwest winds on October 25 and 26 reached gusts of 60 m.p.h. that produced a lake effect storm with rain, hail, sleet, two inches of wet snow south and east of the city, extensive tree damage — and rare jaegers and gulls. October's average temperature of 53 °F was 2 °F above normal. It was the first wet month since May with 4.34 inches of precipitation, 1.25 inches above normal.

Those strong westerly winds produced a Pomarine Jaeger at Woodlawn Beach State Park on October 17th, two Sabine's Gulls at Athol Springs on the 17th and a single Sabine's Gull on the 26th, as well as several Parasitic Jaegers and jaeger species. Although Pomarine Jaeger was previously (1965) classified as an "occasional very rare Transient Visitant," this species is being reported more frequently with two previous October records in 1996 and one in 2000.

The current *Buffalo Ornithological Society Verification Date Guide* recognizes 382 species; however, the number of species and breeding species is in a continual state of flux. On October 23, 2001, Brett Ewald discovered a GREAT CORMORANT off Wilson Harbor in Lake Ontario. This is the first documented record of this species in the BOS study area. To

many local birders the Great Cormorant is a species whose appearance in our area was expected (while others feel it was long over due). The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs' *A Summary of the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch Fall and Winter Waterbird Migration Data 1993-1999* lists Great Cormorant as an irregular, very rare to rare fall migrant. Great Cormorant has been recorded 5 Nov. 1977, as well as, 7 and 19 Oct. 1999 at Hamlin Beach State Park, only fourteen miles east of the BOS study area. All three were seen with small flocks of Double-crested Cormorants (Ewald and Sherony 2001).

Another very rare October sighting is that of Cattle Egret. There were three observations of this small stocky egret in October: on the 16th in the Town of Yates in a pasture south of Route 18, on the 24th at the corner of Waterport Road and Route 18 in Knuckville, and on the 28th in the Town of Newstead. There are only two previous October records for Cattle Egret, in 1964 and 1969, in the BOS study area. Both of those records were in Canada, and this year's sightings are the first October records of Cattle Egret in Western New York. These birds appear to have been indistinguishable in appearance and could have been the same individual.

There were five new records in October because of unprecedented high numbers of Hudsonian Godwits, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Long-billed Dowitchers, Eared Grebes, and the Yellow (Eastern) subspecies of Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*).

The 'Yellow' or 'Eastern' subspecies of Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*) is very rare in Western New York. The only previous record I could

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find of a multiple occurrence of this *hypochrysea* subspecies were two observed in Silver Creek on April 25, 1937, by Mitchell and Ulrich (1965). According to Dean DiTomaso's Noteworthy Records Data Base, there have only been four single records documented of this species since 1964. So the five *hypochrysea* Palm Warblers (and a total of nine Palm Warblers) seen on Goat Island on October 15 by Don Rober-son is truly a remarkable find.

The three Eared Grebes observed by Kurt Fox at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on October 20th are the most that have ever been documented in the BOS area. This

home, he again returned to Iroquois to confirm "two and possibly three Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows." Three were confirmed by later observers. Although four of these orangish sparrows were observed at Stromness Marsh, Ontario, in 1958 and 1961, this year's three Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are the most that have ever been documented in New York State's Region 1 (the Niagara Frontier).

The three Hudsonian Godwits at Iroquois NWR continued to be cooperative in early October and gave many birders their first look at this rare and elusive species. Although there have been 18 historical records of this species in the month of October, previous records have all been of single birds and this was first time three have visited us in October.

Other impressive numbers were 1200 Double-crested Cormorants on the 26th at Buffalo Harbor, 238 Ring-necked Ducks on the 21st at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, 1569 Ruddy Ducks on the 27th at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, 5 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 23rd at Niagara Falls, 10 banded Northern Saw-whet Owls on the 22nd at Wethersfield, and 15 Fox Sparrows on the 28th in Tonawanda.

A Red Phalarope was observed by Kurt Fox at Golden Hill State Park on October 27th. Although there have been 22 October records of Red Phalarope since 1964, this is the first such record since 1995.

Notable early records were the Long-tailed Duck and Brant on the 6th, while the Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 25th, the Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 28th, and numerous Merlin reports between October 27 and 31st were extremely late. An outstanding 16 warbler species were tallied on the Annual BOS October Bird Count.

The Trumpeter Swans seen at Oak Orchard WMA have salmon pink neck collars, indicating that they are members of Trumpeter Swan Migration Project (see the Batavia-Iroquois Field Trip Report and Words of Wisdom From the Swan Mom in this issue).

The following sources were used in this report: Beardlee, C.S., and H.D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.; Ewald, Brett M., and Dominic F. Sherony. 2001. *A Summary of the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch Fall and Winter Waterbird Migration Data 1993 - 1999*. The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Monograph No. 1.; McLaughlin. National Weather Service. October 2001, Buffalo, New York.; DiTomaso, Dean. B. O. S. Noteworthy Records Data Base 1964 - 1997.

bird is becoming a regular at this location and more high numbers should be expected.

On October 21st Brendan Klick and Don Harris were studying four Long-billed Dowitchers at Iroquois NWR when "a group of five dowitchers joined the original four." This total of nine Long-billed Dowitchers eclipses the previous BOS record of the three seen at Oak Orchard WMA in 1994.

The impressive number and variety (14 species) of shorebirds — including 36 Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Hudsonian Godwits, 47 White-rumped Sandpipers, 40 Pectoral Sandpipers, 23 Dunlin, 4 Stilt Sandpipers, 9 Long-billed Dowitchers, 21 Common Snipe and 2 Red-necked Phalaropes — brought many birders to dike hunting blind 36 at Cayuga Pool. It was there that Jack Skalicky saw a "warm colored sparrow" which he ignored in favor of the rich variety of shorebirds. After checking his Sibley and Rising field guides at



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	20F;28	2;11	Yates	D'Anna; Klick
"	21;28	2;21	Somerset	Morgante; D'Anna
Common Loon	6;20;28	15;46;74	Yates	Klick; D'Anna
"	17	6	Athol Springs	Andrle
Horned Grebe	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	20	10	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	16	Somerset	Morgante
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	20	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson(BOS)
"	20,27	3,2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* <u>Great Cormorant</u>	23	1	Wilson Harbor	Ewald
D.-crested Cormorant	1	902	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	4	1050	Buffalo	Watson
"	26	1200	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
American Bittern	8	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Turisk
Great Egret	1,10	15,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
"	4	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
"	5	3	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
* <u>Cattle Egret</u>	16	1	Yates	Ewald
"	24	1	Kuckville	Ewald
"	28	1	Newstead	Klick
Black-cr. Night-Heron	8	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Turisk
Snow Goose	1	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
"	6	2	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson
"	23	1	Long Beach, Ont.	Litwin
"	28	3	Oakfield	Klick, Harris
"	28	5	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Brant	<u>6F</u> ,28	14,2	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	28	2	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	6,21	1,4	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Watson, Klick
Gadwall	21	65	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
American Wigeon	6	280	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick, Harris
American Black Duck	21	46	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	21L	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick, Harris
Northern Shoveler	6,21	96,224	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	28	80	Yates	Klick, Harris
Green-winged Teal	13	65	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
Ring-necked Duck	3	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	6,21	137,238	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Greater Scaup	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	8	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick
"	19	2	Tifft N.P.	Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lesser Scaup	6,28	36,120	Yates	Klick, Harris
Surf Scoter	17F	5	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	20;28	2;31	Yates	D'Anna; Klick
"	27	15	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante et al
Black Scoter	27F	2	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
"	28	17	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	55	Yates	Klick, Harris
Long-tailed Duck	6F;20	2;2	Yates	Klick; D'Anna
"	21	16	Somerset	Morgante
Bufflehead	20	2	Yates	Potter, D'Anna
"	21	9	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Goldeneye	20F	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	3	6	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	6,21	545,1035	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
"	6	14	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	27	<u>1569</u>	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Osprey	1	1	Farmersville	DeSha
"	3	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	12	1	Hamburg	Andrle
"	19	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Hess
Bald Eagle	7	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Turisk
Merlin	6	1	Carlton	Klick, Harris
"	8	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	<u>27</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS), Watson
"	<u>28</u>	1	Krull Park	Yoerg
"	<u>28</u>	2	Somerset	Yoerg
"	<u>29,31</u>	2,2	Buffalo(UB)	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	23	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Litwin
Common Moorhen	8	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
American Coot	21	120	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson(BOS)
Black-bellied Plover	7	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
Amer. Golden-Plover	6	4	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalmated Plover	7	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Greater Yellowlegs	21	36	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson(BOS)
Lesser Yellowlegs	28	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
<u>Hudsonian Godwit</u>	1,10	2,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
"	2	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Galas
"	2,6,8	1,3,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	3,8	3,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna
"	6,8	3,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	7	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	3	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	2	Tifft N.P.	Klick
Least Sandpiper	7;8	3;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante; D'Anna et al
White-r. Sandpiper	2;6;8	47,19;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson; Klick; D'Anna
Pectoral Sandpiper	2,6;21,28	28,40;34,5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson; Klick
Dunlin	2,6;21	8,12;23	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson; Klick
"	23	80	Wilson Harbor	Ewald



<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Stilt Sandpiper	2;3	1;4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson; D'Anna
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	1,10	2,4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
"	6,8	4,4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	6,8,21,28	4,4,9,4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	7	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
Common Snipe	21	21	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Red-necked Phalarope	8;9	2;1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick; Turisk
"	10	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle, Bogacki
*Red Phalarope	27	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Fox
Phalarope species	17	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson
* <u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	17	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson
* <u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	21	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
"	21	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	26	1	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	26	1	Hamburg Town Park	Rew
<u>Jaeger species</u>	17	1	Woodlawn Beach S.P.	Watson
"	26	1	Hamburg Town Park	Yoerg
Little Gull	20	1	Lewiston	Potter, D'Anna
"	21,23,25	3,14,1	Hamburg	Andrle
"	26	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Hess
"	27	5	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
"	27	1	Whirlpool	Klick
"	28	2	Yates	Klick, Harris
Bonaparte's Gull	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson(BOS)
"	25	5000	Fort Erie, Ont.	Litwin
Lesser Black-b. Gull	23	5 ad.	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	1	Goat Island	Klick
Great Black-b. Gull	8	1	Sinking Ponds N S	Holmes
*Sabine's Gull	17,26	2,1	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	26	1;1	Athol Springs	Klick; Turisk
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	22	10 banded	Wetherfield	Junkin
Chimney Swift	8	5	Iroquois N W R	Klick
Red-headed Wdpr.	6;8	1;1	Fort Niagara S P	Potter; S&T O'Donnell
Eastern Phoebe	28	1	Beaver Is S P	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Shrike	27	1	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
"	28	1	Gasport	Light
Blue-headed Vireo	26L	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Common Raven	15	2	Alfred	Brooks
Tree Swallow	27L	5	Batavia WWTP	Fox
N. Rough-w. Swallow	10	12	Iroquois N W R	Fox
"	28	50	Goat Island	S&T O'Donnell
Barn Swallow	8	3	Iroquois N W R	Klick
Carolina Wren	11	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	28	2	Beaver Is S P	S&T O'Donnell
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<u>28L</u>	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Gray Catbird	28	1	Beaver Is. S.P	S&T O'Donnell
American Pipit	2;7	18;20	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson; Skalicky
Orange-cr. Warbler	6	1	Goat Island	Potter, D'Anna
"	12	1	Eden Valley	Andrle
Nashville Warbler	10	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
Blackburnian Warbler	6L	1	Carlton	Klick, Harris
Pine Warbler	6	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Palm Warbler	15	4	Goat Island	Roberson
<i>D. p. hypochrysea</i>	15	5	Goat Island	Roberson
Common Yellowthroat	22	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Amer. Tree Sparrow	27	6	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)
"	28	2	Tonawanda	Watson
Chipping Sparrow	30	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Field Sparrow	22	1	Tifft N.P.	Andrle
* <u>Nelson's Sh.-t Sparrow</u>	7	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Skalicky
"	8	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna
"	8	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, Klick
"	10	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
Fox Sparrow	10F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
"	19	1	Tifft N.P.	Klick
"	28	15	Tonawanda	Watson
"	28	3	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Lincoln's Sparrow	8	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	8	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	S&T O'Donnell
"	10	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Fox
Lapland Longspur	8	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, D'Anna
"	21	2	Batavia WWTP	Klick
Snow Bunting	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson(BOS)
"	28	550	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	55	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	30	Yates	Klick, Harris
Rose-br. Grosbeak	<u>25</u>	1	Franklinville(f)	DeSha
White-w. Crossbill	28	14	Port Weller, Ont.	Crooks et al
"	29	1	Wheatfield	Potter
*Common Redpoll	28	25	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Crooks et al
Pine Siskin	13;21	2;2	Golden Hill S.P.	S&T O'Donnell; Morgante
"	17	3	East Aurora	Holmes
"	20	80	Port Weller, Ont.	Roy et al
"	21	10 banded	Alfred	Brooks
"	22-24	2	Niagara Falls(f)	S&T O'Donnell
"	23,24,30	3	Depew	Barber
"	24	4	Lockport	Losito
"	26	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	27	1	Somerset	Potter(BOS)
"	27	3	Alexander	Fox
"	29	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Evening Grosbeak	20	5	Golden Hill S.P.	Potter, D'Anna
"	24,25	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
"	27	1	Somerset	D'Anna(BOS)

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded: 272

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue: 9

Total for the year 2001: 281

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).



# **Batavia-Iroquois Field Trip and Words of Wisdom from the Swan Mom**

*by Bill Watson*

The October 21, Field Trip started with 12 participants at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant at 9:00 a.m. It was a brisk, breezy, overcast day with temperatures rising from 55 to 65 degrees. By noon the 23 mile per hour southwest wind made observations difficult.

We had good numbers and a good variety of waterfowl with 19 species. Nine Bufflehead, 238 Ring-necked Ducks, 46 American Black Ducks, 35 Northern Pintails, 22 American Wigeon, 13 Common Mergansers, and one Red-breasted Merganser were counted. The 1035 Ruddy Ducks and 224 Northern Shovelers were particularly impressive numbers. One has to wonder where all of these Ruddy Ducks were before these sewage lagoons were constructed.

Two very rare Eared Grebes were observed briefly in the company of two Horned Grebes; however, not everyone embraced the "Eared Grebe" identification at a distance of about 200 yards. Tom Harper was the first to point out these grebes among some 600 Ruddy Ducks. Other species of interest were three Tree Swallows, a lightly marked immature Bonaparte's Gull, and an almost early Snow Bunting. Unfortunately, we did not observe the record three Eared Grebes and the Surf Scoter found earlier by Kurt Fox and Max Mason, respectively.

In the afternoon we toured the Alabama Swamps where we first visited Windmill Marsh. Here we observed a good number of American Wigeon and four of the Ultralight Project's Trumpeter Swans, while Jim Landau pointed out five Cedar Waxwings. According to swan mom Laurie Kramer (the research assistant with the Trumpeter Swan Migration Project) "we currently have 12 Trumpeter Swans in the Oak Orchard area, and will be awaiting their departure in the coming months for the Chesapeake Bay - on their own. We currently have kept a low profile on our swans here in New York, because of the shootings that occurred in November 1999 and January 2000. We are afraid if the information (that our swans have returned to this area) is made public, there would be a good possibility that this could happen again with our current swans. The person or persons responsible for the shootings haven't been caught yet." Laurie realizes that BOS members would not approach the Trumpeter Swans, but she is concerned about people who do not have that knowledge or respect for wildlife. She said it

is important that the Trumpeter Swans are not fed or approached because "we are trying to keep them wild so they do not get shot like the last project birds...." If you would like to learn more about the shootings or the Trumpeter Swan Migration Project the web site address is <trumpeterswans.org>. Like any mom, the swan mom worries about her swan kids, so if you see them please tell her where you saw them, what was the time of day, and were there any other swans with them. She can be reached at <esswans@yahoo.com> or write her at: Trumpeter Swan Migration Project, Environmental Studies at Airlie, 7078 Airle Road, Warrenton, VA 201887. It is important that the Buffalo Ornithological Society and its members support this project to reintroduce a migrating Trumpeter Swan population to New York and the Atlantic Flyway.

At Ring-neck Marsh there was a good mix of puddle ducks among the hundreds of Canada Geese, with 36 Gadwalls being the most impressive. It was here Brendan Klick called our attention to an immature Bald Eagle flying overhead. Our last stop was at Cayuga Pool where there were good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes and 210 American Coots. Shorebirds were also present with 36 Greater Yellowlegs swimming in a large synchronized group and nine Long-billed Dowitchers; however, the Red Phalarope seen by Don Harris on Saturday was not found.

## **Some Alternate Views on Trumpeter Swans**

*by Gerry Rising*

It seems reasonable that B.O.S. members learn that there are views that do not agree with that given by Bill Watson and "swan mom" Laurie Kramer in Bill's Batavia-Iroquois field trip report.

Recently I wrote in opposition to the introduction of Trumpeter Swans at Oak Orchard in *The Kingbird* (51: 2, June 2001, pp. 575-578). I will not repeat my remarks here as readers can find them and much other information about this matter through the "SWAN FILE" on my "Nature Watch" website, <www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~insrisg/nature/>. I do, however, offer one response to my article, this from Dean Amadon, one of this country's most respected ornithologists now retired from the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Amadon wrote to me: "I couldn't agree more about the [Trumpeter] Swans! They, plus Mute Swans, plus a few feral Canada Geese can rip a small marsh to pieces!... Did you know that Wisconsin has this big program? What a disaster!"

Consider also what Ken Kaufman had to say in



Field Notes (51: 5, Winter 1997, pp. 962-963) about this kind of nonsense under the heading: "Bad Ideas in Species Management: Big Ducks in Small Ponds":

"In the category of what we might call Big Bad Ducks, Canada Geese continued to obliterate any memory of the concept that they used to be considered symbols of wilderness. As a case in point, consider Phelps Pond, monitored by William Reid in northeastern Pennsylvania. The pond 'now has seven pairs of Canadas and no more Moorhens, Soras, or Least Bitterns.' Similar horror stories have cropped up countless times in recent years, as the wild goose has become a golf course goose and city park goose and suburban goose, overrunning many wetlands that once held a wider variety of species. Many of the most problematic populations in the lower 48 states were actually introduced by state game agencies, who may or may not be alert enough to be having second thoughts about them now.

"Then there's the Mute Swan. It's like a Canada Goose in some ways, only a lot bigger, and not even native on this continent. Runaway populations of Mute Swans are trashing our beleaguered coastal marshes from Cape Cod to Chesapeake Bay, and are increasing in parts of the upper Midwest as well. Responsible attempts to control their numbers are often stymied by well-meaning "animal lovers" who seem to value feral swans over native wildlife. (For a good account of the conflict, see the article by Ted Williams in the November-December 1997 issue of Audubon magazine.) This season there was little comment on the ongoing problem on the coast, but Mute Swans were showing up in new places in the interior. A flock wandered through southern Quebec and a few showed up in western Pennsylvania; one that got all the way up to the Ontario coast of Hudson Bay was, as Ron Ridout said, 'astounding and just a little worrisome.' One wonders how far these big birds could ultimately spread.

"Okay, class, let's see a show of hands. Considering our experiences with Canada Geese and Mute Swan, how many of you are in favor of taking the Trumpeter Swan--another huge waterfowl species--and introducing it into areas of the upper Midwest and the Atlantic Coast where we think it might have been native once? Areas where wetlands are now severely reduced, where other wetlands species are now struggling to maintain a foothold? Yeah, that's what I thought. Unfortunately, you and I are not in charge of that decision. 'Reintroduction' programs for Trumpeter Swans have been going on for some time now in a number of northern states and provinces, and even as far east as Virginia.

"Some of these Trumpeter introductions are doing disquietingly well. In the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, at least twenty pairs nested, probably representing at least a thousand pounds of swans. Others nested in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Ontario. A pair nested for the third year at Perch River Wildlife Management Area in upstate New York. Not introduced locally, this pair probably reflects spillover from Ontario, and their presence (and their potential impact on the marsh) does not bode well for the declining Black Terns at Perch River. A couple of Trumpeters also lingered in Pennsylvania into June. Not mentioned in these pages, but publicized elsewhere by a cheerleading section of uncritical media reporters, was the deliberate attempt to teach more feral Trumpeters in Virginia to migrate a few dozen miles to Chesapeake Bay.

"There seems to be a widespread sense that it's fine to introduce a species to a region as long as that species was native there at one time (even if the environment in that region has changed dramatically since). The pro-swan faction would have us believe that Trumpeters were once all over this continent, wintering south to central Florida and north along the Atlantic Coast as far as ice-free waters existed. However, the most authoritative sources on the birds of Florida, Virginia, and Massachusetts, for example, do not mention this species, even as a hypothetical. I regard the former omnipresence of Trumpeters as less than proven. Even if they did once range along the Atlantic Coast, it was in an era when that coast was vastly different than it is today. Trumpeter Swans are doing well in the west, in country where they have enough room; their populations have been increasing there. The inclusion of this species on the Partners in Flight 'Watch List' of birds in potential danger is bizarre, and must have been politically motivated; it would make a better fit on the 'Watch Out List' if we had one! I don't know why there isn't more scrutiny and regulation of schemes to introduce huge, potentially damaging birds like swans into new areas."

One of the arguments made by the Trumpeter Swan introduction folks is that the Trumpeter Swan will (a) drive out Mute Swans and (b) serve as a benign bird in the marshes it takes over. For those who do not see the logical conflict in those claims, I offer an article by Lawrence N. Gillette entitled "The Impact of Nesting Trumpeter Swans on Other Species of Waterfowl" that appeared in 1988 in Proceedings and Papers of the Eleventh Trumpeter Swan Society Conference. Among other observations, I cite just one: "While adult ducks were usually ignored, broods of ducklings were attacked by the swans, and ducklings were killed



on several occasions."

There are also a few points not raised by the swan mom that ought to be considered. Those swans that we are urged not to approach were recaptured last spring and trucked to Oak Orchard from Maryland. And it should be noted that during this project one bird has been killed and one crippled by collisions with the ultralights. I suggest that the "low profile" being maintained by the Trumpeter Swan Migration Project is less concerned with hunting and more to avoid the mounting opposition to their inappropriate activities.

Are Trumpeter Swans in trouble? It is quite true that less than a hundred were known to exist in the lower 48 states in 1935 but Alaskan and Canadian populations included many more and in 1990 almost 16,000 were recorded.

It is very difficult to prize cost estimates for Trumpeter Swan introductions from publications for a number of reasons not the least of which is the fact that F&WS staff who often man the projects use them to justify their positions; however, it is clear from the few that are available that these costs are in four figures per bird fledged. I offer two examples: in 1987 when \$10,000 was granted to an Ontario project, one swan was fledged; in that same year an Alberta project proposed to use \$27,500 to raise and release eight swans. (These figures appear in the 1988 Proceedings and Papers of the Eleventh Trumpeter Swan Society Conference, pp. 28 and 48.) Given the staffing and equipment involved, I suspect that the Oak Orchard project cost far more.

Surely we have better uses for hard-to-obtain wildlife conservation funds.

## **Peregrine Falcon Nesting Report for the 2001 Season**

*by Bill Burch*

We are fortunate to have two active pairs of peregrines in the nearby area. The Statler nest box in Buffalo, NY was occupied by the same pair as in 1999, and produced two young. The nest on the ledge of Goat Island, NY fledged at least one young bird; this site is difficult to monitor and may have produced more young.

City peregrines usually stay in the area all year. They may wander a month in the fall, as Mark Kandel of the Department of Environmental Conservation believes, but as winter approaches, they stick close to the nest site to defend it. In 2000 the Buffalo pair were in town by mid-December, and this year they were

seen November 30 at the nest box. The Falls pair was seen together November 25, 2000. Juveniles, however, usually migrate. The Canadians, in a telemetry experiment in 2000, learned that three juveniles left Toronto in October to winter in Central America, but the fourth, which had an injured wing, stayed home.

At the Statler nest box we installed a one-way window this spring to permit closeup viewing of the birds. To reduce the likelihood of the birds seeing their image in the window, it was inclined 20 degrees to the rear, and it is covered most of the time. It is used sparingly. It has permitted the reading of the band on the right leg of the female (white letters EX on a black band) but we couldn't read the small numbers on the silver band of the left leg. The identity is still being sought.

On March 16 a Snowy Owl perched on a Statler ledge 60 feet from the nest box, arousing the fury of the female. She made repeated dives at the intruder, but the owl appeared unconcerned by the attack; the peregrine gave up and the owl eventually flew away. The first egg was laid three weeks after this.

Four eggs were laid on dates April 7, 9, 11 and 13. Of these only two hatched; the dates were May 14 (probably) and May 16. This female in 1999 laid four eggs, of which three hatched; in 2000 four out of four hatched.

Banding of the three-week-old chicks was done June 5 by Mark Kandel and Mike Allen, both of the DEC. The chicks, one male and one female, were removed from the back door of the box, and banded in the elevator room at the top of the Statler. During this 30-minute operation the agitated parents flew past the nest, often calling,

Fledging first was the young male, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 20. Not quite prepared, he fell exhausted late in the day and was found Thursday morning on the sidewalk. It was picked up, put in a box and Kandel was called. He took the bird to the flat roof of the Statler, and watched as it flew off the roof at noon. Again, this was a short flight and it was found in the street an hour later. The finder took it to Mike Olek, a rehabilitator in Orchard Park. It was fed, checked by a veterinarian and put in a flight cage for four days. He was brought again to the Statler roof on Tuesday, June 26. After posing for photographs, the young male hopped to the parapet and flew 926 feet north to the Federal Building. I moved to the 26th floor of the Rand Building where I could see the entire family with my scope. On the Liberty building were the parents and the juvenile female, who had learned

*(continued on page 111)*



# Report of the 66th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 14, 2001

Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

## Weather Synopsis

On the morning of the count a low pressure area was located over James Bay trailing a north-south cold front through central Michigan to the Gulf. The low was located in Iowa 24 hours previously, merged with a weak low over Sault Saint Marie and intensified as it moved quickly to the northeast. A warm front advanced through the area well before midnight. During most of the count day the area experienced much warmer than normal temperatures and strong, gusty southerly winds. An active cold front advanced through the area during the late afternoon and early evening. Passage of the front was accompanied by light rain, a wind shift to the southwest, lower wind speeds and sharply lowered temperatures and dewpoints.

## Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:28 AM

Sunset: 6:34 PM

Time:	Weather:	Temp:	Dew Pt.:	Pressure :	Dir/Wind:	Remarks:
Midnight	Partly Cloudy	71	59	29.83	SE23G26	Warm front previous hour
3:00 am	Cloudy	70	56	29.79	S22G31	
6:00 am	Cloudy	68	54	29.73	S22G26	
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	69	54	29.69	S22G27	
noon	Cloudy	70	56	29.64	S18G26	
3:00 pm	Light Rain	67	60	29.56	S23G30	
6:00 pm	Light Rain	67	60	29.55	SSW14G22	Cold Front Passage
9:00 pm	Light Rain	58	54	29.73	SW24G30	
Midnight	Mostly Cloudy	56	47	29.80	SW15	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

## LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon	18		Northern Shoveler	153	
Pied-billed Grebe	97		Northern Pintail	105	
Horned Grebe	2	(8,15)	Green-winged Teal	223	
Double-crested Cormorant	1,462		unspecified teal	20	(10)
Great Blue Heron	108		Canvasback	F 1	(20)
Green Heron	L 5		Redhead	F 8	(10,21)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	(9)	Ring-necked Duck	397	(10,13)
Turkey Vulture	252		Greater Scaup	200	(9)
Snow Goose	6	(17)	Lesser Scaup	162	
Canada Goose	14,29		unspecified scaup	12	(6)
	8				
Mute Swan (adults)	2	(2,7)	White-winged Scoter	F 79	(9,26)
Trumpeter Swan (origin unknown)	1	(5)	Bufflehead	F 8	
Tundra Swan	1	(26)	Hooded Merganser	14	(5,10,17)
Wood Duck	238		Common Merganser	253	
Gadwall	35		Red-breasted Merganser	63	
American Wigeon	599		Ruddy Duck	432	
American Black Duck	95		unspecified ducks	20	(3)
Mallard	5,045		unspecified waterfowl	75	(10,13)
Blue-winged Teal	27				



## OSPREYS - COOTS

Osprey	2	(27)	Cooper's Hawk	13	
Bald Eagle	7	(10,16,23)	Red-shouldered Hawk	2	(20,27)
Northern Harrier	30		Red-tailed Hawk	143	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	37		American Kestrel	62	
Merlin	2	(2,7)	Ruffed Grouse	14	
Peregrine Falcon	1	(6)	Wild Turkey	235	
Ring-necked Pheasant	18		American Coot	843	

## PLOVERS - TERNS

Black-bellied Plover	14	(8,13)	Pectoral Sandpiper	21	
American Golden-Plover	7	(3,8)	Dunlin	17	(8,10)
Semipalmated Plover	6	(8)	<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>	4	(10)
Killdeer	624		Common Snipe	27	
Greater Yellowlegs	94		American Woodcock	3	(1,3,13)
Lesser Yellowlegs	70	(10,13,23)	Bonaparte's Gull	126	
Solitary Sandpiper	L 2	(17,21)	Ring-billed Gull	13,179	
Spotted Sandpiper	L 1	(16)	Herring Gull	1,355	
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>	1	(10)	Great Black-backed Gull	138	
Least Sandpiper	L 2	(13,23)			

## DOVES - SWALLOWS

Rock Dove	1,957		Pileated Woodpecker	5	
Mourning Dove	1,571		Eastern Phoebe	24	
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	(8,9,20)	Blue-headed Vireo	6	
Great Horned Owl	4	(3,8,12)	Blue Jay	1,190	
Barred Owl	3	(19,28)	American Crow	4,925	
Chimney Swift	L 89	(9,14)	Common Raven	6	
Belted Kingfisher	25		Horned Lark	84	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41		Tree Swallow	91	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	(3,8,9)	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	39	(2)
Downy Woodpecker	162		Barn Swallow	L 1	(23)
Hairy Woodpecker	46		unspecified swallows	60	(10)
Northern Flicker	69				

## TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	1,146		Eastern Bluebird	169	
Tufted Titmouse	115		Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	(12)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	58		Hermit Thrush	45	
White-breasted Nuthatch	166		American Robin	1,770	
Brown Creeper	22		Gray Catbird	15	
Carolina Wren	10		Northern Mockingbird	12	
House Wren	L 4	(28)	Brown Thrasher	1	(24)
Winter Wren	7		European Starling	38,025	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	411		American Pipit	296	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	121		Cedar Waxwing	510	

## WARBLERS - TANAGERS

Tennessee Warbler	L	1	(6)	Pine Warbler	L	1	(25)
Orange-crowned Warbler	L	2	(3,13)	Palm Warbler		2	(10,13)
Nashville Warbler	L	1	(3)	Bay-breasted Warbler	L	1	(9)
Northern Parula	L	1	(4)	Blackpoll Warbler	L	2	(8,12)
Magnolia Warbler	L	3	(6,12,17)	Black-and-white Warbler	L	1	(3)
Cape May Warbler	L	1	(6)	Ovenbird	L	2	(3)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	L	9		Common Yellowthroat		1	(7)
Yellow-rumped Warbler		551		unspecified warblers		14	(13,20)
Black-throated Green Warbler	L	2	(3,5)	Scarlet Tanager	L	1	(5)

## TOWHEES - HOUSE SPARROWS

Eastern Towhee		13		Savannah Sparrow		12	
American Tree Sparrow		11	(8,12)	Fox Sparrow		3	(3,17)
Chipping Sparrow		190		Song Sparrow		320	
Field Sparrow		89		Lincoln's Sparrow	L	1	(3)
Swamp Sparrow		40		Rusty Blackbird		1,333	
White-throated Sparrow		1,234		Common Grackle		5,113	
White-crowned Sparrow		175		Brown-headed Cowbird		4,623	
Dark-eyed Junco		548		Purple Finch		131	
unspecified sparrows		46	(6,17,20)	House Finch		432	
Lapland Longspur		18	(3,5,20)	Pine Siskin		5	(5,13,28)
Northern Cardinal		222		American Goldfinch		521	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	L	2	9(26)	Evening Grosbeak		2	(19,28)
Red-winged Blackbird		26,64		House Sparrow		1,230	
		2					
Eastern Meadowlark		24		unspecified birds		718	(1,5,17)

**Summary** Total Species Observed ..... 151  
Total Individual Birds Observed ... 139,252

**Comparisons** Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 66 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2001 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

**NOTES:** **Lowest count since 1935:** Horned Grebe (2) - 3% of the average.  
**Highest count in past decade:** Northern Pintail (105) - 2 x the average, Ring-necked Duck (397) - 2.3 x the average, Common Merganser (253) - 2.8 x the average, Red-breasted Merganser (163) - 1.8 x the average, Bald Eagle (7) - 2.3 x the average, Sharp-shinned Hawk (37) - 1.4 x the average, Greater Yellowlegs (194) - 3.2 x the average, Lesser Yellowlegs (70) - 3.7 x the average, Chimney Swift (89) - 3.7 x the average, Tufted Titmouse (115) - 1.8 x the average, American Tree Sparrow (11) - 5.5 x the average.  
**Lowest count in past decade:** Horned Grebe (2) - 5% of average, Bonaparte's Gull (126) - 17% of average, Great Black-backed Gull (138) 69% of average.



**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: Bill Broderick, Ken Cohen, **Susan M. O'Donnell**, **Thomas M. O'Donnell**, Vickie Rothman
3. Wilson, NY: **Willie D'Anna**, Jerry Farrell, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: Mark Schlacter, **Bill Watson**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Don Harris, **Brendan Klick**, Robert Lipp
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, John Filor, George Thomas, Robert Wagner
7. Lowbanks, ON: Jerry Chapple, Nina Chapple, **Edward Fuchs**, Dennis Gralak, Sue Gralak, Mike Hamilton, Jack Mansfield, Sonja Mansfield, Gloria Sacha, Stan Sacha, Mary Alice Tock
8. Fort Erie, ON: **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Michael Galas, Debra Milleville, **Gerry Rising**, Chuck Rosenberg
10. Akron, NY: Donna Deleon, Robert Deleon, Brendan Klick, **Donald Roberson**, John Welte, Martha Welte
11. Buffalo, NY: **Michael Davis**
12. Lancaster, NY: **Ann Bauer**, Marion Bee, Paul Fuhrmann, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Marlene Phillips, Ruth Phillips, Anne Vogt, Donna Wieand
13. Batavia, NY: Lisa Bartlett, Doug Beattie, Kurt Fox, Charles Graney, David Graney, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Marie Johnson, **Jane Mason**, **Max Mason**, Alice McKale, Dolores Seamans, Gail Seamans, Donald Thureau
14. Hamburg, NY: Robert Andrie, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobbler, Robert Leonard, Glenna Leous, Mark Leous, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, **Barbara Walker**, Margaret Wooley
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**
16. Angola, NY: Patricia Andrie, Robert Andrie, Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Bert Schweigert**, Tom Koopman
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Michael Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ron Andrews, Leora Arnold, Lucille Bailey, Shirley Casper, Faye Clancy, Barbara Cronk, Pete Cronk, Roxy Lates, Dora Lilly, Joan MacEwan, Roger Nicholson, Michael Raybuck, Theresa Rork, Bill Smith, **Elaine Smith**, , Ann Voss, Jay Wilson, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson, Roseanna Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Christine Budniewski, Raymond Budniewski, Elizabeth Cole, **Joanne Goetz**, Thomas Goetz, Joseph Gula, Terry Mahony, Richard Miga, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, Roger Peterson, Barbara Robbins, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Doris Welch, Thomas Welch
20. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Julie Heilman, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: James Berry, Seth Berry, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Julie Heilman, Steve Maggio, Bill Seleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Tom LeBlanc
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Frances C. Hunt, Mary Jordan, Ann Scott, Morris Scott
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Dan Babcock, Harold Babcock, **Doris Burton**, Anne Healy, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Helen LinkAlfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russell Allen, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Warren Bouck, Debbie Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Elsie Cushing, Luke Donius, Audrey Dunham, Ann Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, John Gradoni, Elsie Kent, **Clarence Klingensmith**, Margaret Klingensmith, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Ken McClure, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Beverly Perry, Sean Phelan, Vivian M. Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Dan Rase, Peggy Rase, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Mary Shields, Peter Shields, Terah Soule, Connor Stephens, Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Evelyn Thomas, Abbey Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Betty Warek-Fowler, Suzanne Wood

**Total Number of Observers:** 207

(*Peregrine Falcons; continued from page 107*)  
to fly June 24 or 25, with no mishaps. These three, impatient after watching the young male loafing for three hours, flew over to him and encouraged him to fly away with them. All four of the family were again seen in the air four days later, June 30, so the fledglings were deemed a success.

Sixteen young have fledged since peregrines found Buffalo in 1996. Exhausted juveniles have been picked up from the street or the sidewalk on six occasions by passersby. They have always done the right thing with the bird. As far as we know all 16 thrived and dispersed from the area at about 80 days of age. The vacating in September of the US Airways office, where the TV

monitor was on display, has posed a problem. We may be able to use the vacant office, but we shall miss the enthusiastic nest surveillance and record-taking of the four ladies who worked there.

The Niagara Falls peregrines first nested on the Canadian side of the gorge in 1998, then moved across the gorge to Goat Island, USA. This year the nest was high on the cliff, 100 feet upstream from the Cave of the Winds platform at the tunnel exit. On June 29 Mark Kandel saw a young peregrine fly to the nest site and land in a clumsy first-day manner. I have no other sightings. Kandel believes the nest site was chosen well before the hordes of Cave tourists came. The Canadians have less interest now, but they did identify the pair as their Amelia and Henny.





**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Return Service Requested

## **December/January Calendar**

**December 12: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**December 15: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Count.** Compiler: Bill Michalek (457-3228).

**December 16: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Count.** Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).

**December 27 (tentative): Oak Orchard Count.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (762-8040).

**December 29: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains Count.** Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110).

**December 29: Saturday. Niagara Falls ON-NY.** Contact Willie D'Anna (731-4348 or dannapotter@wzrd.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.

**January 5: Saturday. Hamburg-East Aurora Count.** Compiler: Brendan Klick (839-1792)

**January 9: BOS Meeting.** Mark Kandel (NYDEC): Lake Erie Botulism. 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science

**January 13: Sunday. Waterfowl Count of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs.** This is the target date, but any date between Jan 12 and 20, inclusive is acceptable. However, the best count of shifting flocks is attained if everyone uses the target date, weather permitting. Bill Burch (773-3690).

**January 23: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 67, No. 12 December, 2001

### THE MONTH: November

*by Gerry Rising*

As I write this summary in early January 2002 with snow piled several feet deep on the roof outside my window, it is hard to believe the weather of last November. It had to be one of the balmiest Novembers in Buffalo weather history. The temperature for the month averaged 46.9°F, 6.4° above average and there were eleven days when the readings were ten or more degrees above average for that date. On the 24th, 25th and 30th, they were 18°, 19° and 17° respectively, above the norm. And on only one day, the 11th, did the temperature drop below freezing, then only to 31°. Meanwhile, although there was more than a trace of rain on eleven days giving a month total of 3.4 inches, that was still a half-inch below average. Any bird that took its incentive for migration solely from the weather would have no motivation whatsoever to head south this fall.

Of course, birds have other clues to spur their instinct to migrate, most notably shortened day length but possibly also the loss of deciduous foliage. So the

migration seemed quite normal, most local migrants leaving at near average times and birds from the north moving in and out at the usual times as well.

There were, as always however, exceptions. Those staying late: Turkey Vulture, recorded Nov. 19 (vs. late dates: Date Guide, Nov. 14, Beardslee and Mitchell, Nov. 1); Northern Shoveler, Nov. 4, 17

(B&M, Oct. 29); Osprey, Nov. 1 (DG, Oct. 31; B&M, Oct. 16); Merlin, Nov. 6-26, apparently taking up winter residence again at the UB South Campus (B&M, Nov. 3); Peregrine Falcon, Nov. 18, 30 (DG, Nov. 7; B&M, Oct. 15); Greater Yellowlegs, Nov. 18 (B&M, Nov. 16); White-rumped Sandpiper, Nov. 4, 11, 18 (DG, Nov. 13; B&M, Oct. 20); Pectoral Sandpiper, Nov. 11 (B&M, Nov. 3); Northern Rough-winged Swallow Nov. 27 (DG, Nov. 12; B&M, Oct. 17); Eastern Bluebird, Nov. 16, 19 and now an uncommon but regular winter resident (B&M, Nov. 11); Gray Catbird, Nov. 8 (B&M, Nov. 1); American Pipit, Nov. 24 (B&M, Nov. 20); Blue-winged Warbler, Nov. 7 (DG, Sept. 21, B&M, Aug. 15); Common Yellowthroat, Nov. 18 (B&M, Oct. 19); Wilson's Warbler, Nov. 18 (DG, Oct. 16; B&M, Sep 27); Eastern Towhee, Nov. 10 (B&M, Oct. 30); Chipping Sparrow, Nov. 10-11 (B&M, Nov. 1); Swamp Sparrow Nov. 24 and also an uncommon but regular winter resident (B&M, Nov. 15); Common Grackle, Nov. 10, 28 (B&M, Oct. 30); and Purple Finch, Nov. 11 (B&M, Nov. 4).

Those arriving early were, as should be expected given this remarkable weather, fewer in number: Iceland Gull Nov. 10 (B&M, Nov. 11); Glaucous Gull, Nov. 22 (B&M, Nov. 23); Bohemian Waxwing Nov. 11 (B&M, Nov. 18); White-winged Crossbill, Nov. 4, 6 (B&M, Nov. 8); and Common Redpoll, Nov. 3, 4, 9, 11 (B&M, Nov. 12). Even these records I find interesting considering the warm conditions that extended far to the north of us into Canada. Now in January I am reading a number of CBC reports, one from North Bay, that speak of open lakes for the first time in many years. A separate communication from Webequie, 500 miles north of Thunder Bay, reports "a very warm fall and early winter. It was unseasonably warm all the

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way up until one week before Christmas." Clearly then, it was not weather that drove these species south this year.

(Some readers will consider the Beard-slee and Mitchell date spans well beyond their useful life. My view is that they remain for most species remarkably on target. As should be expected, for most birds they represent a better "average" than do the Date Guide dates, which serve a quite different purpose. In any case, the early appearance of the much anticipated Seasonal Guide should update the B&M information.)

The early movement of winter finches largely bypasses us in this region, many more reports coming from the east end of Lake Ontario, but a few of

these northern and northwestern birds found their way here. There are a smattering of reports of Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. Perhaps because I saw none of these species, I would hardly call this an invasion.

A few Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs also appeared -- no Horned Larks, however. I predict that these field species will be much harder to find with farmers turning to liquification of their manure. When spread on fields, this seems not to attract birds as did the solid waste.

I close this report with a salute to the many BOS members (and non-members as well) who are reporting their observations. When I wrote Month columns a decade ago, they were based on the reports of scarcely

a dozen observers. I count 29 reporting for this issue and those reports are accompanied by 26 verification report forms. I consider this wonderful and I offer kudos to all.

I quote here a few passages from those reports. Gordon Bellerby about his Black-headed Gull: "No other birders present, alas!" Bill Burch: "Our Statler pair [of peregrines] are back after a short (month?) vacation from the city." Brett Ewald: "Winter finches continue to move through the Wilson area -- I have encountered small numbers of Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, and White-winged Crossbills on an almost daily basis..." Brendan Klick about the sick Pomarine Jaeger at Rock Point: "Perhaps the bird was unable to fly more than short distances because it was poisoned by eating the dead loons." One of Tom Libelant's days "was kind of slow but had a few good species. Rough-legged Hawk was the highlight." Garner Light's observations included a "Snowy owl...sitting on top of a horse barn." Mike Morgante's Parasitic Jaeger "was later observed chasing gulls." Norm Murr about Purple Sandpipers in St. Catharines: "We even got to see them swim (yes swim) between rocks, sometimes 2 to 3 feet away." Terry Mosher: "Red-bellied Woodpeckers, incidentally, continue to increase their breeding activity in the Southern Tier and are reported from all over [Chautauqua] county now." Vivian Pitzrick in Allegany County: "At month's end there was still a good supply of wild grape and mast as well as gray-barked dogwood and thorn-apple fruit." Gail Seamans about a flock of Evening Grosbeaks: "The odd thing is that they didn't call or my hearing is so bad that I didn't hear them." (Gail and I share this problem.) Jack Skalicky about two road-killed Eastern Screech-Owls, one red the other gray-phase, found within a half mile: "I find this quite unusual to observe two dead...so close to each other." Carmen Tarantino about Pine Grosbeaks at Fort Niagara: "The group included one beautiful adult male -- all birds were feeding on the berries and allowed for close approach." Peter Yoerg reported the UB Merlins "still using the very same branches in the very same trees (Red Pine) for their night roosts." Mike Zebehazy about a Snowy Owl on the second breakwall off LaSalle Park: "It looked like a female, large but not too heavily spotted."

Great reports! Keep up the good work!





## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	18	40	Somerset	Morgante
"	24	250	Golden Hill S.P.	Fox
Common Loon	4	18 dead	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris
"	5	6	over Lancaster	Morgante
"	28	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Walker
Horned Grebe	3	240	Rock Pt. to Ft. Erie	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	49	Mayville	Klick
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
"	11	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	18	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	18	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Mayville	Klick
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
D.-crested Cormorant	16	4	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
"	21	60	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick
"	24	5	Olcott	Roberson
"	24	1	Dayton	Klick, Harris
Turkey Vulture	<u>19L</u>	2	Pomfret	Mosher
<u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	16	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick
Snow Goose	11,18	9,8	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	16	1	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	17	1	Olean	Reed
Canada Goose				
<u>B. c. hutchinsii</u>	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	11,18	10,33	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Brant	4	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Murr
Mute Swan	3	3 ad	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	4,18	7,6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	14	4	Barcelona Harbor	Rew, Horbett
Tundra Swan	3	65	Crescent Beach, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	4,18	29,82	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	13	6	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
"	16	7	Oak Orchard W.M.A.	Klick
"	17	2	Attica Reservoir	Klick
"	21	5	Hanover	Klick
"	21	4	Lake Erie S.P.	Klick
"	21	94	Mayville	Klick
"	28	228	Dewittville	Rew, Walker
Wood Duck	25	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Harper
American Wigeon	24	50	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
American Black Duck	4	62	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Northern Shoveler	4;17	249;53	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Pintail	4;17	49;48	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
Green-winged Teal	23	32	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	24	1	Dayton	Klick, Harris
Canvasback	4	6	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	17	2	Attica Reservoir	Klick
"	18	6	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Morgante
"	21	144	Mayville	Klick
Redhead	17	47	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	18	12	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Morgante
Ring-necked Duck	4;17	622;139	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
"	17	82	Attica Reservoir	Klick
Greater Scaup	18	500	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Morgante
Lesser Scaup	4;17	53;51	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
Surf Scoter	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	11	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	18	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Morgante
White-winged Scoter	4	80	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
Black Scoter	4	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	4	9	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	11	2	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
Bufflehead	21	430	Mayville	Klick
Hooded Merganser	17	104	Attica Reservoir	Klick
"	24	112	Dayton	Klick
Common Merganser	24	130	Dayton	Klick, Harris
Ruddy Duck	4;17	1377;870	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
"	7	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	11	1	Somerset	Morgante
"	17	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Harper
"	28	104	Mayville	Rew, Walker
Osprey	1	1	Farmersville	DeSha
Bald Eagle	11	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
"	17	1 imm.	Attica Reservoir	Klick
"	18	1	Salamanca	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	24	1	Dayton	Klick, Harris
"	24	1	Allegany S.P.	Klick, Harris
Rough-legged Hawk	6F;24	1;1	South Dayton	Rew; Klick
"	11,18	1,1	Yates	Morgante
"	17	1	Batavia	Klick
"	17	1	Persia	Wojewodzki
"	18	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Morgante
"	18	1	Randolph	LeBlanc, DeSha
"	21	1	Evans	Klick
"	24	1	Leon	Klick, Harris
Merlin	<u>6-26</u>	2	Buffalo(UB)	Yoerg
"	<u>11</u>	1	Somerset	Skalicky
Peregrine Falcon	18	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Klick
"	30	2	Statler Tower, Bflo.	Burch
American Coot	8	44	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	28	800	Mayville	Rew, Walker
Black-bellied Plover	3	7	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	3	6	Camelot Beach, Ont.	D'Anna



<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4L	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
Killdeer	4	3	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	4	16	Port Weller, Ont.	Murr
Greater Yellowlegs	3;18L	2;1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	4,18L	2,2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	11	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
Sanderling	3;4L	7;6	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna; Klick
White-r. Sandpiper	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	11	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
"	<u>18L</u>	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	11L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
*Purple Sandpiper	2;4;11	2;2;4	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby; Murr; Crooks
"	3	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
"	4	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	18	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	21	1	Niagara Falls	DiTommaso
Dunlin	3;18	70;16	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	3;18	30;6	Windmill Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Yoerg
"	11	6	Iroquois N.W.R.	Klick, Harris
"	18	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	4	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Hamilton, Watson
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	11	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
<u>Jaeger species</u>	11	1	Yates	Klick
Little Gull	4	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klick, Harris
"	10	2	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	11	1	Yates	Klick, Harris
"	20	5	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Klick
"	27	1	Queenston, Ont.	Hamilton
* <u>Black-headed Gull</u>	26	1	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby
"	27	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Hamilton
Bonaparte's Gull	17,20	3750, 3760	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	21	36	Mayville	Klick
* <u>California Gull</u>	11	1	R. Moses Power Plant	D'Anna
Iceland Gull	10	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	10	7	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	21	9	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick
Glaucous Gull	22	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Niagara Falls	Klick
*Black-leg. Kittiwake	25	1	Queenston, Ont.	Bellerby
Eastern Screech-Owl	11	2 roadkill	Somerset	Skalicky, Davis
Snowy Owl	6F	1	Angola	Michalek
"	13;17;25	1;3;2	Buffalo Harbor	Zebehazy; Morgante; Harper
"	14	1	Sunset Bay	Rew, Horbett
"	17;18,22	1	Niagara Falls	Harper; Potter et al
"	18	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19;23;25	1;1;2	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Andrle; Morgante; Yoerg
"	27	1	Wilson Harbor	Ewald
Long-eared Owl	3	2	Rock Point P.P.	Potter
Red-headed Wdpkr.	16	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Rising, Galas

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Shrike	6	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Light
"	11;17	1;1	Somerset	Morgante; D'Anna
"	17	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	17	1	New Albion	Wojewodzki
"	17	1	Yates	Ewald
Common Raven	11	1	Ward	Brooks
N. Rough-w. Swallow	<u>27</u>	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Hamilton, DiTommaso
Carolina Wren	3,13	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	3	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
"	4	1	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris
"	8	4	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
"	10	3	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	17	2	Tifft N.P.	Morgante
"	18	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	20-30	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	25	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Harper
Eastern Bluebird	16	7	Andover	Brooks
"	19	8	Lancaster	Morgante
Gray Catbird	8L	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Northern Mockingbird	16	1	Woodlawn	Andrle
American Pipit	4;17	6;1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Klick
"	24	1	Dayton	Klick, Harris
* <u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	11	4	Somerset	Morgante et al
"	11	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg, Henderson
Blue-winged Warbler	<u>7</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	21	3	Lake Erie S.P.	Klick
Common Yellowthroat	18	1	Rock Point P.P.	Yoerg
Wilson's Warbler	<u>18</u>	1	Somerset	Morgante
Eastern Towhee	10	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Chipping Sparrow	10-11	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
Fox Sparrow	3	4	Tonawanda	Watson
"	3	4	Rock Point P.P.	Potter
"	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	4	3	Iroquois N.W.R.	Light
"	5	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	10-14	3	Colden	Wojewodzki
Swamp Sparrow	24	4	Allegany S.P.	Klick
Dark-eyed Junco				
<u>J. h. oreganus</u>	1-28	1	Eden Valley (f)	Andrle
Lapland Longspur	17	1	Batavia WWTP	Klick
"	18	6	Yates	Morgante
Snow Bunting	4	36	Port Weller, Ont.	Murr
"	18	62	Yates	Morgante
"	18	40	Golden Hill S.P.	Morgante
Red-w. Blackbird	10	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
Rusty Blackbird	10	4	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	11,18	4,1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Morgante
Common Grackle	10	1	Sinking Ponds N.S.	Holmes
"	28	1	Mayville	Rew, Walker
*Pine Grosbeak	9F;18	1;1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Klick; D'Anna
"	17	7	Yates	Ewald
"	18;24	1;8	Fort Niagara S.P.	Harper; Tarantino



<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18	66	Somerset & Yates	Morgante
"	18	14	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna
"	26	6	Youngstown	Hamilton
Purple Finch	3	2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
"	11	4	Somerset	Skalicky
White-w. Crossbill	4	2	Rock Point P.P.	Klick, Harris
"	6	1	Wheatfield(f)	Potter
"	9	2	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Klick
"	11;25	3;1	Somerset	Yoerg, Klick; D'Anna
"	18	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
"	22,24	4,4	Alfred	Brooks
Common Redpoll	3-4	1	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	4;11	46;30	Port Weller, Ont.	Murr; Crooks
"	4	5	over Porter	D'Anna
"	9	28	Lewiston	Klick
"	11;18	10;220	Fort Niagara S.P.	Yoerg; Klick
"	11	50	Somerset	Morgante
"	11	17	Yates	Klick
"	17	25	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Morgante
"	17	140	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna
"	18	220	Somerset to Carlton	Morgante
"	21	22	Lake Erie S.P.	Klick
Pine Siskin	1-30	30 max.	Colden	Wojewodzki
"	1-30	32 max.	Darien(f)	Harper
"	4,28	3,7	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	4	10	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna
"	13,14	1,4	Eden Valley	Andrle
"	18	1	Lancaster(f)	Morgante
"	18	11	Somerset	Morgante
"	18	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	18	13	Fort Niagara S.P.	Klick
Evening Grosbeak	1-30	29 max.	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	2	16	Bennington	Seamans
"	4,18	1,1	Porter	D'Anna
"	8	3	Wilson	Ewald
"	9	3	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Klick
"	17	2	Ward	Brooks

<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded:</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded in this issue:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total for the year 2001:</b>	<b>287</b>

Statisticians' Note: If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mike Morgante, 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (email: Morgmmm@AOL.com).

<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	18	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Klick
"	18	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klick



# An Alternative to Some Alternate Views on Trumpeter Swans

by Bill Watson

In "Some Alternate Views on Trumpeter Swans" (*Prothonotary* 67:11:106) Gerry Rising quotes Ken Kaufman (1997) as saying "A pair [of Trumpeter Swans] nested for the third year at Perch River Wildlife Management Area in upstate New York. Not introduced locally, this pair probably reflects spillover from Ontario, and their presence (and their potential impact on the marsh) does not bode well for the declining Black Terns at Perch River" (Field Notes 51:5:962-963).

Before speculating on the effect of Trumpeter Swans on Black Terns (or any other species) it is important to interpret biological laws that govern the relationships between species and determine what should be expected according to these laws. Also it is important to find out from the professionals that study and/or observe Trumpeter Swans and Black Terns at Perch River WMA, what the relationship between these two species is.

For more than ten thousand years the native Trumpeter Swan has interacted with other North American bird species. During this time members of any bird species with detrimental behaviors (that would make it a victim of any aggressive Trumpeter Swan) would have their detrimental behaviors removed. This leaves only native birds that have had thousands of years to evolved behaviors that result in them being a survivor of any Trumpeter Swan aggression (the Law of Natural Selection). On the other hand the introduced European Mute Swan has only been in North America for about a hundred years and native waterfowl species have not had time to evolve into species that are able cope with Mute Swan aggression. It is not uncommon for an introduced species to even cause the extinction of native species. The introduction of a few placental mammals species in Australia resulted in the extinction of many of the native marsupial mammals. The process of natural selection has produced native birds that are largely invulnerable to the native Trumpeter Swan, but are defenseless to the aggressive behavior of the relatively recently introduced Mute Swan. Due to thousands of years of evolution, one should not expect the native Trumpeter Swan to be a serious detriment to other native North American bird species. It is unfortunately that so many experts unjustifiably transfer the detrimental and aggressive behavior of the introduced Mute Swan to the native Trumpeter Swan.

The aggressive behavior of the Mute Swan in North America is well documented. Time budget studies at Cranberry Marsh (near Toronto) show "continuous aggression toward geese and geese broods, duck broods, a Pied-billed Grebe brood, and even Herons." Aggression was at a peak of 11.4 mean aggressive events per hour when laying eggs (this initiates the peak of territorial behavior) and a peak of 11.5 mean aggressive events per hour at night when other water fowl try to roost on the water. A male Mute Swan will go after any Canada Goose it can see. The Mute Swans were "observed destroying goose and duck nests" (Lumsden 1991).

On the other hand, time budgets of Trumpeter Swans in the Copper River Delta in Alaska show just the opposite. "In general breeding [Trumpeter] Swans were extremely tolerant of ducks. Mallards loafed on swan nest mounds within pecking range on the incubating female [Trumpeter] Swan or nearby male; this occurred on an almost daily bases at several of the territories. In general geese were more often tolerated than chased. Aggression toward geese varied. Geese were observed loafing on or near nest mounds at five territories, sometimes within one or two body lengths of the incubating female, but were never allowed near the mound on four other territories" (Henson 1989).

Perhaps even more important is the population density of the two species. Trumpeter Swans, although fairly tolerant of other marsh birds, are very aggressive of Mute Swans and other Trumpeter Swans. As a result, a nesting pair of Trumpeter Swans will have a territory from 13 to 60 hectares, while nesting pairs of Mute Swans can be nearly colonial with territories of 0.4 to 7.7 hectares. Thus, there can be twice as many to 150 times as many Mute Swans as Trumpeter Swans on a marsh! Obviously, 300 aggressive Mute Swans can do a lot more damage than a single pair of relatively mild-mannered Trumpeter Swans

Are Trumpeter Swans destroying the Black Terns at the Perch River Wildlife Management Area? Probably Not! Both Joseph Lamendola, the NYSDEC Senior Wildlife Biologist who is interested in Trumpeter Swans, at Perch River Wildlife Management Area, and Irene Mazzocchi, the NYSDEC Senior Wildlife Technician who studies Black Terns at Perch River Wildlife Management Area, agree that they have not observed any aggression by the pair of Trumpeter Swans toward the Black Terns or any other marsh birds, with the exception of Mute Swan, during the six breeding seasons the Trumpeter Swans have nested. This could be because the swans are timid around people. Both also did not observe any nesting displace-



ment of Black Terns from the Lower Pool (where the Trumpeter Swans nest). "Black Terns continue to nest at the Lower Pool even though they seem to be disappearing from other historic breeding areas." The only Trumpeter Swan aggression observed was when the Trumpeter Swan first arrived at the Perch River WMA and replaced six Mute Swans at the Lower Pool. Joe Lamendola reports that he "...saw a Mute Swan fly from the vicinity of Stone Mills pool toward the Lower Pool. A few minutes later two swans come flying from the Lower Pool, one was the trumpeter and it called once. It was behind the Mute Swan, but broke off as it passed by my check station, then returned to the Lower Pool. The Mute Swan continued on to the Stone Mills Pool." Apparently the presence of Trumpeter Swans (and their potential impact on the marsh) does bode well for the declining Black Terns at the Lower Pool at the Perch River WMA.

It is very important to access a species detriment behavior on (1) biological laws (2) biological studies and (3) direct observations of the species to see if it is participating in the detrimental behavior, rather than on the irresponsible speculation of authoritative sources.

Now that the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has ruled that the introduced Mute Swan is a protected species under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, we should be thinking of subtle ways to control this beautiful, but destructive bird. In conclusion, I am not advocating the immediate reintroduction of Trumpeter Swans in New York State. Certainly further study is needed. Time budgets measuring aggression of Trumpeter Swan with Alaskan marsh birds are not the best measure of their ambivalence with New York marsh birds. In all likelihood, New York Trumpeter Swan time budget studies would not only show it to be less detrimental to other marsh birds than the Mute Swan, but would also be further evidence that Trumpeter Swans are native to New York State.

*(this discussion will be continued in the next issue)*

## Feeding Bluebirds

by Vivian Mills Pitzrick

Although most Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) in this latitude go south during part of the winter, very often, particularly if the season is open, some will remain here. They do not do well in cold inclement weather when they often have a problem finding food. Seeming to enjoy being around human habitations, they sometimes come to feeders. Almost any type of feeder, such as suet holders or hanging suet or suet balls, platforms on posts, hanging feeders and even window trays may be used.

They also like many different foods, having been known to accept pecans, raisins, suet, breads, baked apples and even cottage cheese. Perhaps their favorites are peanut hearts and the red fruit clusters of the Stag-horn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) which can be found along many roadsides in the country.

Often we never realize that bluebirds are around until we try putting out food. It is always a treat to see this species with its sky-blue coat and if it has a background of snow, that's pure delight.

## Prothonotary Indexing Project

by Karen Landau

Work on the indexing project is progressing. The 2001 index (volume 67) will be published in the first issue of volume 68 of the *Prothonotary*. Other years' indexes that are currently available are 1990, 1995, 1999 & 2000. You can pick up a copy of any of these indexes at the BOS meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at the museum or contact Karen Landau at 941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com). If you'd like the individual years electronically (they are in MS Excel), please provide me a blank diskette or your email address & I will send them to you as an attachment. Once all the 90's are complete, I will then combine them into a 10 year cumulative index. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help so far – Bob Andrie, Dave Cooper, Mike Hamilton, Audrey Horbett, Fran Rew & Jim Wojewodzki.

## GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2002 AWARD

### Proposal Cover Sheet

**Check one:** Organization \_\_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work/School (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Project proposal:** The proposal should have a title and be as detailed as possible, describing rationale, goals, methods, equipment, materials, personnel, schedule, etc. **Type your proposal on a separate sheet and attach to this cover sheet.**

**Project budget:** A separate itemized project budget should be forwarded with your proposal.

Total amount requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Planned completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement:** If this grant is approved, I (we) agree to make a full written report to the BOS describing in detail the results of the study or project. I (we) understand that I (we) may also be required to present the results before a regular meeting of the Society. If for any reason this proposal cannot be carried out, I (we) will return all funds to the BOS.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### For Students Only

**Faculty sponsor:** Please attach a reference letter from your faculty sponsor verifying your ability to carry out the proposed project and verifying his or her commitment to oversee your work

Faculty sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Buffalo Ornithological Society GRANTS for 2002

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

**Proposal Deadline: March 15, 2002**

The Buffalo Ornithological Society makes annual monetary grants in support of activities related to the society's purpose and interests.

#### Grant Categories

1. Ornithological studies and research projects
2. Projects such as bird habitat preservation and nesting projects
3. Funding for college undergraduate and graduate projects

#### Eligibility

Persons and organizations residing in the BOS study area dedicated to birds and their welfare including:

1. Ornithological societies, bird clubs or groups in which bird concerns are an integral part
2. Individuals, both BOS members and nonmembers
3. College students including those attending out of area schools (Students must have a faculty sponsor.)

#### Grant amounts

1. Applicants may request grants up to \$700.00
2. The actual amount awarded will be recommended by the Special Projects Fund Advisory Committee based on funds available, proposal quality and monetary requirements of the project.
3. Requests may be made for continued funding of previously approved projects

#### Project completion

1. When the proposed project has been completed, the grant recipient must make a written report to the Society.
2. The grant recipient may be required to present or participate in a program on the subject before the BOS membership at a regular meeting.

#### Application materials

Please use the form provided on the opposite side of this sheet as your application cover sheet. Carefully follow the instructions and **be sure to forward: (1) your cover sheet, (2) your detailed description of proposed activities and (3) your itemized budget.**

**Mail your completed application to: Special Projects Fund**

**Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211**

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**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## **February/March Calendar**

**February-May: Hamburg Hawkwatch.** Join the hawkwatchers at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg, NY. Observers will be present from early morning to late afternoon during days having suitable weather.

**February 13: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**February 27: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**March 13: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**March 27: BOS Meeting.** 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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